## **Amateur Radio in the 21st Century**

Steve Nichols G0KYA Chairman, Propagation Studies Committee



What can radio amateurs do? What new tools can AR offer for HF propagation research?



## History



"It is are raining not here also"

1961





### **Present day**



2016 – Tim Peake, 10 amateur radio UK schools contacts with ISS – thousands inspired.





### **Present day**



2017 - Amateur radio moonbounce from Goonhilly





### **Present day**



FunCube: Providing daily telemetry to schools on 145MHz









DXpeditions: K1N logged 138,409 contacts











YOTA 2017 – 80 young people from around the world









## Amateur radio 2017

- There are approximately 30,000 active radio amateurs in the UK (80,000 licences and 21,000 RSGB members)
- There are about three million amateurs worldwide, about 25% are in the USA.
- The UK has three licence levels:

Foundation – 10 Watts Intermediate – 50 Watts Advanced – 400 Watts

- UK radio amateurs can use designated bands from 136 kHz to 134 GHz
- Popular HF bands are 160m (1.8 MHz) to 10m (28 MHz)
- Licences require basic knowledge of propagation, hence the need for ongoing education





## **Tools – International Beacon Network**



The NCDXF, in cooperation with the IARU, constructed and operates a worldwide network of high-frequency radio beacons on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930, and 28.200 MHz.

Beacons step down from 100, 10, 1 and 0.1 Watts







## **Tools – IBP network and Faros**





### Tools – 10m and 6m beacons

$\leftrightarrow \rightarrow$	CÛ	Secure   http	os://www.kee	le.ac.uk/	depts/por/28	.htm			
Apps	* Book	marks 💽 Micro	soft Word Onli	M Grr	nail Offline 📒	Google	Docs	s M GMail C	n
28169	ZB2TEN	Gibraltar	IM76HD	4	1/4 Vert	Omni	Al	24?	
28171	XE1FAS	Publa PU	EK09UB	12	Dipole		A1	24	
28173.0	IZ1EPM	27k NE Turin	JN35WD	20	1/2 Vert	Omni	A1	24	
28174	VE1VDM		FN85AA				A1	?	
28175	VE3TEN	Ottawa ON	FN25	10	GP	Omni	A1	24	
28176.9	HP1RCP	Cerro Jefe	FJ09HD	5	Slope Dip		A1	24	
28177	IWIAVR	Cravanzana		5	Vertical		A1	?	
28178	IQOGV		JN61TR				A1	?	
28180.3	IIM	Bordighera	JN33UT	5/20	2x5/8 Vert	Omni	A1	30/60min	
28182.4	SV3AQR	Amalias	KM07QS	4	GP	Omni	A1	24	
28183.2	XE1RCS	Cerro Gordo	EK090S	8	AR10	Omni	A1	24	
28184.0	VE2REA	Quebec QC	FN46IT				A1	24	
28185	VA3SRC	Burlington C	N FNO3BH	5	Dipole		A1	PT	
28187.6	VE7KC	Penticton BC	DN09EL				A1	24	
28188	OE3XAC	Kaiserkogel	JN78SB	20	7/8 GP@750	nOmni	A1	24	
28188.1	JE7YNQ	Fukushima	QM07					24	
28188.9	SV5TEN	Raad	KM46CK	5	Vertical	Omni		24	
28189.5	LU2DT	Mar del Plat	a GF12	5	Vert. Dip.	Omni	A1/	psk	
28189.8	LUSXW	Ushuaia	FD55UE					?	
28190	LU3HFA	Cordoba CD	FF78UP	5	Vertical	Omni	A1	24?	
28190	LU4VI	Villa Regina	FF60VI				A1	24	
28191.5	A62ER	Sharjah UAE	LL75QI				A1	OP?	
28192	EP4HR	Shiraz	LL69GP	20/2/0.3	2Dipole		A1	24	
28193	EI7GR		I053MG					?	
28192.9	VE4ARM	Austin MB	EM09HW	5	GP	Omni	A1	24	
28193.5	A47RB	Oman	LL93FO	10	Vertical	Omni	A1	OP?	
28193.5	LU2XPK		FF66DE				A1	?	
28193.9	IW4EIR		JN54AS	1.5			A1	?	
28194	IW4ERI		JN54AS						
28195.1	IY4M	Bologna	JN54QK	20	5/8 GP	Omni	A1	H>H+30m	
28196	VASITA	Bramton ON	FN03CW				A1	IRREG	
28196.1	LU4JJ	Concordia ER	GF08XO				A1	24	
28196.7	LU5FB	Rosario SF	FF97PB				A1	24	
28197.0	VE7MTY	Vancouver B	C CN89	5	Vertical	Omni	A1	24	
28197.7	IK30TW						A1	?	
28193	LU2ERC	Ensenada	GF15AD	10	Vertical	Omni	A1	24	
28198	LU9FE		FF98GR					?	
28199	LW6DJD	La Plata	GF15AC	5			A1	?	
28199.3	LU1FHH	El Trebol SF	12				A1	24	
28200.0	4U1UN	UN New York	FN30AS	100-0.1	Vertical	Omni	A1	IBP cycle	
28200.0	VESAT	Eureka, Nunav	ut EQ79AX	100-0.1	Vertical	Omni	A1	IBP cycle	
28200.0	WGWX	Mt Umunhum C	A CM97BD	100-0.1	Vertical	Omni	A1	IBP cycle	
28200.0	KH6RS	Laie, Oahu H	I BLIOTS	100-0.1	Vertical	Omni	A1	IBP cycle	
28200.0	ZL6B	Nr Masterton	RE78TW	100-0.1	Vertical	Omni	A1	IBP cycle	
28200.0	VK6RBP	28k SE Perth	OF87AV	100-0.1	Vertical	Omni	A1	IBP cycle	
28200.0	JA2IGY	Mt Asama	PM84JK	100-0.1	Vertical	Omni	A1	IBP cycle	
	-	Managethicash	MOLANN	100 0 1	The set i want	Con i			

#### G3USF's Worldwide List Of 50MHz Beacons

Updated Freq	i 3 Octob Call	er 2017 Town	Loc	Pwr	Antenna	QTF	Mode 1	Status	Last Rept mmyy
			401	Hz B	eacons				
40021 40050	OZ7IGY GB3RAL	Jystrup Nr Didcot	JO55WM IO91IN	20	H Dipole	Omn:	A1/P	14 24 65B 24	0317 NonOp

#### 50MHz Beacons

Beacons in IARU Region 1 will be moving to frequencies above 50400

50000	<b>GB3BUX</b>	Nr Buxton	IO93BF	25	HTurnstiles	omni	A1	24	0617
50000.7	FIVJT	Hyeres	JN23XD	2	GP	Omni	A1	OP?	0517
50001	BV2B	Taipei	PL05SA	10	GP	Omni	A1	24	0616
50001	BV8YB								0617
50001	VELUW	Pictou NS	FN85QN				A1	?	0817
50001	VE9SIX		FN21tr				A1		0517
50001.4	IW3FZQ	Monselice PD	JN55VF	8	5/8 GP	Omni	A1	24	0817
50002	IK4ISR	S.Georgio Piano	JN54QQ					IRREG	0516
50002	PY2RPT	Americana	GG67IG	5	Inv Vee	Omni	A1	24	0616
50002	F6KB0		IN88GN	10	Halo	Omni	A1	?	0917
50003	VO1FRR	40k NW St John 1	NLGN37JS	10	Fold Dip	Omni	A1	IRREG	0917
50004	A47RB	Oman	LL93FO					24?	0216
50004	IOJX	Rome	JN61GW	10	5/8 Vert	Omni	CW	24	0917
50004.8	SIOJX						FTE	3	0917
50004.5	AH2G	Mt Barrigada Gu	amQK23	50	Horiz Loop	Omni	A1	24	0417
50005	9M4SIX	Penang Island	OJ05DJ	50	5/8 GP	Omni	A1	24	0416
50005	EIOSIX	Enniskerry	IO63VE			Omni	P14	/cw24	0917
								1/5min	1
50005	GB3MCB/	SSt Austell	10700J	40	Dipole	E/W	F1	5mcycle	0917
50006	A71A	Doha	LL55SH	10	Vertical	Omni	A1	?	0616
50006	PY2SFY		GG77GA				A1	?	0716
50006	IW9GDC	Messina	JM78SD		Big Wheel		P14	+cw	0817
50007	VA2ZFN	Mt Kanasuta QC	FN08HE	4	Halo	Omni	A1	24	0917
50007	EA7URC		IM77RQ				A1	24?	0917
50007	HG1BVB	Horman	JN87FI	20	X-Dip	Omni	F1	24	0917
50007	ZD7VC	St Helena	IH74	45	M2 Loop@20M	1	A1	OP?	0516+
50007	LU8DZE							?	0917
50007.5	F7ZKY		IN96LV						0917
50007.8	DUIEV	Metro-Manila	PK04MP	10	1/2 GP	Omni	A1	24	0517

### Lists managed by Martin Harrison G3USF

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## **Tools – modes available**

### **Traditional modes**

- CW Morse (0 db to -12dB SNR)
- RTTY radio teletype (-5 dB)

### Weak signal modes

• PSK31/63 - phase shift keying (-10 dB SNR)

### Even weaker signal modes

- FT8 Franke-Taylor design, 8-MFSK modulation (-20/-24dB SNR)
- JT65 Joe Taylor 65-MFSK (-28 dB SNR)
- WSPR Weak Signal Reporter Network FSK (-29dB SNR)

\* Measured in 2500 Hz noise bandwidth







### **PSKreporter**



System statistics. Comments, problems etc to Philip Gladstone. Online discussion of problems/issues. Reception records: 1,810,916,258

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f theRSGB



### **WSPR**











### **WSPR**



### WSPRnet

Welcome to the Weak Signal Propagation Reporter Network

Activity Map Database Stats

#### User login

#### Username \* GOKYA Password \*

Create new account Request new password

Log in

#### Frequencies

USB dial (MHz): 0.136, 0.4742, 1.8366, 3.5926, 5.2872, 7.0386 10.1387, 14.0956, 18.1046, 21.0946, 24.9246, 28.1246, 50.293, 70.091, 144.489, 432.300, 1296.500

#### Spot Count

792,084,197 total spots 1,089,780 in the last 24 hour 58,032 in the last hour

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#### Navigation

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#### Database

Specify query parameters

50 spots:
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	Timestamp	Call	MHz	SNR	Drift	Grid	Pwr	Reporter	RGrid	km	az
	2017-10-05 11:58	HB9LEK	14.097012	-8	0	JN47ij	5	PA5VEN	JO22oj	610	337
ccount	2017-10-05 11:58	F5LHF	14.097037	-5	0	JN25em	5	PA5VEN	JO22oj	767	4
assword	2017-10-05 11:58	GOCCL	14.097179	-27	0	JO02	5	PA5VEN	JO22oj	288	90
1	2017-10-05 11:58	KB9MVW	7.039991	-15	0	EN52tj	5	<b>W3JHG</b>	FN03	769	78
·	2017-10-05 11:58	LA3JJ	10.140290	-7	0	JO59bh	5	ON7KB	JO21ei	956	205
	2017-10-05 11:58	W3PM	1.838004	-28	0	EM64or	1	K9PAW	EN61ar	785	353
36, 0. <mark>4742</mark> ,	2017-10-05 11:58	VK6CQ	10.140125	-24	0	OF78wa	2	VK2TPM	QF56of	3290	103
	2017-10-05 11:58	K6PZB	432.301492	+10	0	CM88nk	20	KJ6MKI/U	CM88oi	12	142
	2017-10-05 11:58	VK2RH	10.140180	-9	0	QF56oc	0.2	VK2TPM	QF56of	14	0
8 1046	2017-10-05 11:58	WH2XCR	0.475617	-23	0	BL11je	1	VE6JY	DO33or	5197	35
8.1246.	2017-10-05 11:58	VK2FS	10.140231	-5	0	QF56	0.2	VK2TPM	QF56of	36	140
.489,	2017-10-05 11:58	G4GCI	14.097005	-23	0	IO90gu	1	VA3ZV	EN82wv	5885	295
100000	2017-10-05 11:58	WI2XBQ	0.475633	-11	0	CN70vr	1	VE6JY	DO33or	1678	27
	2017-10-05 11:58	JR1IZM	0.475772	-19	0	QM06aq	5	JI1CBW	PM96uc	71	205
	2017-10-05 11:58	F5LHF	14.097038	-24	0	JN25em	5	VA3ZV	EN82wv	6546	301
	2017-10-05 11:58	GOUJA	28.126133	+8	-1	JO01bj	0.5	<b>G8AXA</b>	JO01ai	7	231
oots	2017-10-05 11:58	MORTP	14.097085	-19	0	IO91pk	5	VA3ZV	EN82wv	5905	295
t 24 hours	2017-10-05 11:58	G4GCI	14.097005	+2	0	IO90gu	1	DK6UG	JN49cm	703	98
bur	2017-10-05 11:58	KB9MVW	7.039995	+6	0	EN52tj	5	VE3YX	FN16fd	957	60
	2017-10-05 11:58	GOCCL	14.097180	-12	0	J002	5	VA3ZV	EN82wv	5959	295
	2017-10-05 11:58	LA3JJ	10.140277	-12	0	JO59bh	5	G8UDI	IO93vj	914	228
	2017-10-05 11:58	EA5CYA	28.126039	-17	0	IM99xv	0.2	IU1DZZ	JN45hk	938	46







### **Reverse Beacon Network**

M Gmail - In	box ×	band: 16	0m,80m,60m,40 ×				
$\leftarrow \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$	🗅 🛈 www.rever	sebeacon.n	et/dxsd1/dxsd1.pl	hp?f=20			
Apps ★	Bookmarks will Mic	rosoft Word C	Onlin M Gmail Off	fline 🖃	Google Do	cs M GMail Onl	ine  AJ Bell Youinvest SIPP 👔 Sł
DEVED				/	2		
HEVEH	SE BEA						
welcome main	dx spots nodes	downloads	about contact u	15			
show/hide my l	ast filters						options:
bandi 460m 80		47m 45m 42m	10.00				show/hide
cancel filter se	election / search spot l	av callsion	1,1011		rows to	show: 50 ▼	
de	dx	frea	ca/dx	snr	speed	time	Do you enjoy the RBN?
HB9DCO	UA3KW	14010.3	CW CQ [LoTW]	7 dB	27 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	Please consider supporting us!
9V1RM	<b>ST85</b> T	14021.9	CW CQ	14 dB	22 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	Donate
HA6PX	🛎 4X6TU	21150.1	CW NCDXF	9 dB	20 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	
HA6PX	UA3KW	14010.3	CW CQ [LoTW]	43 dB	28 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	
SV8RV	DR60 SAL	14071.5	PSK63 CQ	12 dB	63 bps	0905z 13 Oct	we have 149 skimmers online
SV8RV	R6AK	14070.8	PSK63 CQ [LoTW]	19 dB	63 bps	0905z 13 Oct	skimmers online:
SV8RV	ON6DC/A	14033.0	CW CQ	5 dB	24 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	3B8CW - 17m, 15m
ES5PC	UA3KW	14010.2	CW CQ [LoTW]	8 dB	27 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	9A1CIG - 40m, 20m
DJ9IE	OV1BCN	5290.5	CW BCN	19 dB	20 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	9M2CNC - no spot last 15min 9M2ZAK - no spot last 15min
OH6BG	🔍 4X6TU	21150.1	CW NCDXF	12 dB	22 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	9V1RM - 20m, 17m
VE7AB	W1YL	7021.3	CW CQ	25 dB	21 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	AA4VV - 160m, 80m AC0C - no spot last 15min
SM6FMB	R6AK	14070.5	PSK63 CQ [LoTW]	16 dB	63 bps	0905z 13 Oct	BD2RJ - 40m, 20m, 15m
SV1CDN	UA3KW	14010.4	CW CQ [LoTW]	13 dB	27 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	BD4WN - no spot last 15min BD7JNA - 15m
R6YY	SA7TVH	18088.0	CW CQ	3 dB	20 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	BD7LLL - 40m, 20m, 17m
R6YY	UA3KW	14010.3	CW CQ [LoTW]	16 dB	27 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	BG4GOV - 40m, 20m, 15m BG4WOM - 40m, 17m, 15m
SEOX	DK4AN	7030.1	CW CQ	4 dB	17 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	BG8NUD - 20m, 17m
GW8IZR	EB4IC	14050.0	CW CQ	14 dB	20 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	DF4XX - 40m, 20m
BD7JNA	UA3KW	14010.3	CW CQ [LoTW]	6 dB	27 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	DJ1RK - 80m, 40m, 20m
UN6ZQ	UA3KW	14010.3	CW CQ [LoTW]	21 dB	28 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	DJ6HP - 30m
JA4ZRK	JL1BHN	7007.0	CW CQ	17 dB	20 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	DJ9IE - 160m, 80m, 40m, 30m, 20m, 15m
DJ1RK	UA3KW	14010.4	CW CQ [LoTW]	34 dB	27 wpm	0905z 13 Oct	DKOTE 20m 40m 20m 20m





### **Reverse Beacon Network**



Radio Society of Great Britain





### **Reverse Beacon Network**





## Predtest.uk (Gwyn G4FKH)



### Uses ITURHFPROP engine





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## Convectiveweather.co.uk (Jim G3YLA



### Soon to be Propquest.co.uk





## **Current contents – VHF (G3YLA)**

### Looking for Sporadic E – May to end of August

06Z14JUN2016

GFS DOZ RUN

300MB GEOPOTENTIAL HEIGHT (DM CONTOURS) AND WIND (KTS ISOTACHS)





POLAR STEREOGRAPHIC PROJECTION

WEATHERQUEST LTD

### 300mb jet stream





# Any questions





