# Wirral & District Amateur Radio Club

**Airwave 70.450 MHz**

*Volume 5, Issue 1* **www.wadarc.com** *Newsletter:- January 2005*

## 2005 Committee

**Colin G3RLA**
Chairman / Newsletter

**Bob G4NCI**
Treasurer

**Tom G4BKF**
Secretary / Publicity

**Steve G7BBF**
Broadband

**Gordon G8MMM**
Publicity / Newsletter

**Phil G6IIM**
**Neil G4OAR**
**Gerry G8TRY**

**Meetings are held at Irby Cricket Club 2nd & 4th Wednesdays 8pm Start. Visitors are always most welcome**

Suggestions for Club talks or your comments on any topic .. to:- Colin **g3rla@wadarc.com** or any committee member

### Chairman's Notes :-

New Years Greetings to all our members and an apology for the late issue of the newsletter, I do have a good excuse …. I needed to wait until the outcome of the AGM was known. Only then was I able to confirm the line up of your committee for 2005, as it happens nothing has changed, as you will see from the panel to the left, the outgoing members were returned for yet another year. All I would like to say is thanks to you for the vote of confidence. We had a good attendance at the AGM and an interesting exchange of ideas were put forward to advance our Club for the future.
A small drop in the average attendance at our club meetings was noticed in 2004 and I would wish to see this trend reversed this year. I am sure that you will find some interesting talks and events in the calendar and hope that you will attend whenever possible.

## Club Roundup

We are pleased to report that the change of venue for the Club Dinner in December to The Twelfth Man in Greasby was a great success. You may remember that your committee was forced into a late change upon the announcement of the closure of the Hotel Victoria where we had held this event for some years. We all owe a vote of thanks to Gordon (G8MMM) who undertook all the organisational responsibilities for this event. Our intrepid photographer was of course present and managed to catch a few shots …

## Dates For Your Diary in 2005 :

**23 Jan..** Oldham ARC Rally will take place at the Oldham Sports Centre in Lord Street from 10.30am. B&buy, Talk in on 145.550 via GB4ORC will operate from 7.30am. For full details and map see www.oarc.org.uk

**13 Feb..** Wakefield & DRS 14th Northern Cross Rally, Details from www.wdrs.org.uk

**20 March..** The NARSA Rally will take place at the Norbreck Hotel in Blackpool, full details may be obtained from Peter G6CGF on tel:- 0151-630-5790

**02 May..** (Bank Holiday) The Mid-Cheshire Amateur Radio Rally will take place at the Winsford Civic Hall.

**15 May..** Midland ARS. Drayton Manor Radio and Computer Rally. Details at www.midamradio.co.uk

**Don't Forget.**
**If you're travelling a long distance to a rally, it could be worth contacting the organiser, by telephone or E-mail, to check all is well before setting off. WADARC cannot be held responsible for any information on Rallies, as this is supplied by the organisers and is published in good faith as a service to readers. If you have any queries about a particular event, please contact the organisers direct.**

### A DF Challenge ?

After the success of his home built attenuator in the Constructors Competition last year, Chris (M1EEV) has spent the Winter designing and building the ultimate DF antenna to accompany it. Here you are given a sneak preview of his new and improved model… The Fox Finder 2. When interviewed by our reporter, Chris was able to give some intimate details of the specification. The Antenna has a claimed front to back ratio of 47.9 dbd and a forward gain of 7.47 dbd. and has little or no side lobes. It is lightweight and easy to handle and can be quickly dismantled to fit into his car. Chris will be using this in the DF hunts this year and we look forward to seeing the results of his endeavours.

Amateur Radio Communications Ltd
ARC
32 Bridge Street, Earlstown
tel:- 01925 229881

**Support Your Local Ham Store……**

**New and used Amateur Equipment and Repairs.**

### Your Calendar of Events for 2005

#### January

05 D&W - The Railway, Meols
12 AGM
19 D&W - The Anchor, Irby
26 Pre-owned Bargain Sale

#### February

02 D&W - The Harp, Lower Neston
09 Cellular Comms Today. G6IIM
16 D&W- The Black Horse, Lower Heswall
23 Contentious Debate. G8MMM

#### March

02 D&W- The Hoylake Lights, Hoylake
09 HF Radar. John Howarth
16 D&W- The Bridge Inn, Port Sunlight
23 DX Cluster. G3UVR, WADARC Website Demo
30 D&W- The Ring of Bells, West Kirby

#### April

06 D&W– The Fox and Hounds, Barnston
13 QRP Talk, Rev George Dobbs
20 D&W- The Pilot Boat, Egremont
27 Merseyside Police– Speed Detection Devices

# INTERNET LINKING – *THE WAY FORWARD!*

## New Procedures from 1 October 2004

The consultation period is now complete and the results and decisions placed on the Ofcom website.

Following discussions between the RSGB and Ofcom the following procedures for applying for the Internet linking Notice of Variation (NoV) will come into force on 1 October 2004.

**CURRENT INTERNET LINKING NoVS WILL EXPIRE ON 31 DECEMBER 2004**

Existing NoV holders and new applicants will be able to apply for new NoVs from 1 October 2004. The three month period between 1 October and 31 December will allow for the continuity of the present network to be maintained.

***SO; IF YOU CURRENTLY HOLD AN INTERNET LINKING NoV AND YOU WISH TO CONTINUE PROVIDING AN INTERNET GATEWAY BEYOND 31 DECEMBER 2004 NOW IS THE TIME TO APPLY FOR YOUR NEW NoV. IF YOU DON'T THE SERVICE YOU CURRENTLY PROVIDE TO THE AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNITY MUST CEASE ON 31 DECEMBER 2004.***

**How to Apply:**

The system is totally web based; go to http://www.dcc.rsgb.org/gateway_online_app.htm and follow the instructions there[**this link will be in place from 1 October**]. You will be able to complete the procedures in a single transaction.

# INTERNET LINKING – *FAQs!*

## Do you need a Notice of Variation?

Under the new scheme NoV holders will be expected to provide a gateway service, the details of which can be found online at http://www.dcc.rsgb.org/gateway-los.htm ***[this link will be active on 1 October]***

It is recognised that internet linking activities fall into three categories:-

- those who use the gateways for their own self training in internet linking for its technical merit or personal use via a hand-held radio rather than directly into a computer sound card
- those gateways directly attached to existing voice repeaters.
- those who wish to provide a gateway service for their fellow amateurs

**You need to decide which category you fall into.**

It is planned that those falling into the first category can be catered for at low power, thus avoiding the need for frequency co-ordination and without the need of a separate NoV. ***However it is important to understand that for the present, if your operations fall into this category, you will still require a NoV to permit this operation.***

Currently those falling into the second and third categories will continue to need a NoV. At this stage, those holding NoVs which permit internet linking of GB3xx voice repeaters will continue unaffected.

## Why is there a charge?

Although the NoV comes free, there is an administration charge of £12.00.

In the past the administration costs of providing the service have been subsidised by the Radiocommunications Agency, now Ofcom. Ofcom is no longer prepared to subsidise the service therefore the costs have to be passed on to the customer. The £12.00 charge covers the RSGB operating costs for the provision of the service.

The fee covers the cost of the NoV irrespective of how many bands/frequencies are requested and allocated to the applicant.

## Do I need to renew annually?

Yes you do, NoVs will be renewable annually at a charge of £12.00. You will receive your renewal reminder via E-mail one month prior to your renewal date. You will be able to renew your NoV at any time during that month. The expiry date of your new NoV will be 1 year from your due renewal date; you will not lose out by applying early.

## Do I have to pay for changes or amendments?

Yes. This is because the costs of producing a changed or amended NoV are precisely the same as those associated with producing a new NoV. However, the replacement NoV will be valid for a full 12 months from the date of issue.

## What happens if I don't renew?

Your NoV will lapse and you will no longer be authorised to operate your Internet Gateway. If you wish to start operating a gateway again you will need to complete a fresh application.

## What happens if I change my address?

An NoV is only valid for use at the address for which it was issued. You cannot move house and take it with you. Because part of the criteria for issue of a NoV is a frequency co-ordination assessment, this will be affected by a change of location, and the work will have to be done again. You will need to make a fresh application.

## What happens if I change my callsign (or name, etc)?

If the only change is to an item or items which do not affect the RF performance of your gateway we will issue an amended NoV free of charge. The expiry date of this will remain the same as the original.

## What do I do next?

Go to http://www.dcc.rsgb.org and visit the "Internet Linking" section of the site. The systems will be on-line to receive your application from 1 October 2004. Requests for NoVs from existing NoV holders and new applicants will be accepted from this date.

## Slow Morse Group on the Air

**Ian Keyser, G3ROO, and others have formed a slow Morse group. They call "CQ QRS QSO" at 12WPM every evening possible. The frequency is between 3562 and 3570Khz, depending on interference. If the reply is slower than 12WPM the group will slow to that speed. If replies are faster, they remain at 12WPM. If the other station's speed is excessive they ask him to slow down. At present, operators are G3ROO from 1830 to 1900 and GW3SB from 1900 to 2000UTC every evening. On Monday nights GM3WUX starts at 1930 and on Thursdays G3JRX starts at 2000UTC. If other operators would like to join the roster please contact Ian, G3ROO, whose address is correct in the *RSGB Yearbook*.**

**The Royal Air Force Amateur Radio Society also has slow Morse transmissions on 3515kHz on Thursday evenings, starting at 1900UTC.**

**The Next issue of the WADARC newsletter will be published in May, any copy that you have for publication should be sent to the Chairman on or before the 20th of April. If you have any items of radio equipment for sale, please send details for publication. This service is free to paid up members of WADARC.**