

West Kent ARS – November 2023.

Announcements

- **JOTA event**

In late summer, West Kent ARS was invited to help organise a JOTA station for the St. Luke's Scout troop near Medway. After contacting the local clubs, MARTS and BRATS, it was left with West Kent ARS to run the event.

Chris G6HTH picked the lead for the club, assisted by Gordon G7KNS, Phil G3MGQ and Stewart G7JYF who, while a member of BRATS has a county role in the Scout movement. Keith G4JED, also made an impromptu visit as he was in the area on RSGB business, and helped with getting the Scouts to exchange messages on the HF and VHF bands.

The event was held at the Scout camp at Buckmore Park, at the top of Blue Bell Hill, and together with the usual HF and VHF radio stations setup, a range of activities were organised, including cypher and a Morse game. The weather was mostly rain the whole weekend, but the Scouts taking part were rewarded with obtaining a Communications badge.

- **West Kent ARS – 75th Anniversary**

After a great take-up by members of using the club callsigns on-air during the spring, it was understood that members supported a second period for the autumn, however, this didn't turn out to be so.

Thanks to Billy M0ZWW, he did participate using GX3WKS/75 on the HF bands, using CW and digital modes, making over 350 contacts. Thanks to Billy for the effort on behalf of the club to promote it on the air.

- **80m AS contests**

We now have seven members having entered this series of 80m contests, covering SSB, CW and Data (RTTY and PSK 63).

The club is currently back in 14th place, after slipping to 15th in early October. We have good support in the SSB category and do well with the CW legs, but are very underrepresented in the Data categories.

The next and final SSB leg is this Wednesday evening, the 15th November, and then the final contest in the series for this year is a CW leg on Thursday the 23rd November.

- **AFS Super League contests 2023/24**

The club was awarded 16th position for the 4m leg which was held in September, and supported by Les G6UBM and Keith G4JED. It was then placed in 10th position with the 6m leg in October, in which Les G6UBM, Ray G4FFY, Andy G4CTY and Keith G4JED participated.

This past Saturday the 11th November saw the Top Band 160m AFS contest, where three members of the club took part, Ray G4FFY who has claimed 20 contacts, Andy G4CTY as the club HQ station, operating under the club callsign GX1WKS claiming 25 contacts, and Keith G4JED who has claimed 37 Q's. The results of this contest is still to be adjudicated.

Overall West Kent ARS is in joint 11th position of 24 clubs in this series of AFS contests.

This contest runs on different HF and VHF bands until February 2024, so there is time for more members to get involved and get points for the club.

The next contest in this series is on the 2m (144MHz) band on the **3rd December**, and it is hoped that many more members will take part, with the contest running from 10am to 2pm.

- **VHF/UHF UKAC**

West Kent ARS has moved up to 17th position in the overall UKAC contests, out of the 43 clubs participating in these VHF band contests.

This series of contests in 2023 has seen ten members contributing their scores toward the overall placing of the club, but if you're interested or able to help with these VHF/UHF contests on a Tuesday/Thursday evening, please speak with Ray G4FFY.

- **44th CATS Bazaar**

Next Sunday the 19th November, is the Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society 2023 Bazaar, its 44th year, otherwise known as a rally. All trader tables have been sold out, and there is a great deal of interest on social media, so it looks like being a great event.

The event features small invited traders, clubs, special interest groups and a Bring and Buy stall. Entrance is £3 per person which includes a free tea/coffee at the canteen which will also be selling snacks and lite bites.

Once again it will be held at the Oasis Academy Coulsdon, Homefield Road, Old Coulsdon CR5 1ES, doors open 10am till 2pm.

- **Whatsapp group**

Are you a member of the West Kent ARS Whatsapp group?

If you want to know more or to join the group then speak with Chris G6HTH or any member of the Committee.

- **RSGB regional Facebook page**

The RSGB Facebook page for the South and South East, is for all clubs and members to use for sharing information of events and activities happening across our region.

West Kent ARS is in RSGB Region 10, the page for our regional events is at;
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/rsgbregion10>

- **Next practical evening**

Anyone wanting more details of these sessions or to participate should speak with Richard G8CDD or a Committee member, though numbers for in-person gatherings are limited due to capacity constraints.

- **Next meeting – 11th December**

Our meeting next month at the Bidborough Village Hall is our Christmas social, which has become a tradition and will have another fun quiz hosted by Dave G4OTV.

Members are invited to bring some food for sharing, and the usual tea and coffee will be available.

- **Club nets:**

Monday's 8pm 145.375MHz FM

Wednesday's 8pm 51.510MHz FM, then QSY +/-

Sunday's 11am 28.730MHz USB