



## NORFOLK AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

We meet every Wednesday at Eaton CNS School, Eaton Road, Norwich, NR4 6PP from 7-10pm, usually in the 6th Form Centre at the front of school. For more information visit <http://www.norfolkamateurradio.org>

### Minutes of NARC Forum held on Wednesday 29th April 2015

#### Opening of meeting

David G7URP explained that as in previous years, John G8VPE ran the Monday night net asking for comment regarding the club and any new ideas – Here are the notes as supplied.

*8 members on the net, including myself, I'd hoped for a few more (apathy?) Generally most were satisfied with the status quo, with the attitude "if it ain't broke don't try to fix it". However, I tried to stress the need for new and fresh ideas to add to the programme.*

*Major suggestions discussed were:*

*Probe to see if there would be any interest in a "ladies night" in mid year or even a family's dinner/dance/social, to involve the partners who often get left out of club activities. It was noted that the club already held some family events like Radio Active and Christmas activities.*

*Suggestions were made as to the future possibility of more 'live-streaming' or MPEG video of major club events and talks, as per the ARRL visit last year which was very well received.*

*Can we improve club shack usage, perhaps through instruction and encouragement? The physical limitations of the school site were appreciated.*

*It was suggested that more people encouraged to run club nets on Monday nights. What happened to the commitment at the last forum for more committee members to occasionally run the net ? (T.I.C. I think) A suggestion was put forward for a net-controllers training/practise evening...good idea?*

*Some liked the idea of a QUIZ night.*

*Further Fox Hunts were mentioned, some felt that three were sufficient... topic for more discussion at the Forum.*

*Also discussed was a possible second Radio Rally in the area in addition to Barford. Getting willing, experienced people to organise such an undertaking might prove difficult to carry through successfully.*

*Radio special event stations were well appreciated, such as Radio by the Seaside, Worstead festival, Happisburgh lighthouse, Windmills on the Air, Strumpshaw steam museum, Sheringham Railway station, 40s nostalgia weekend, Marconi Day at Caister ILB. There was still very little support for 'contest-style' operating at any of these events; a more relaxed approach was favoured by most who responded. Maybe that is why we have difficulty in getting any new hobbyists interested in contesting ..... it's like Marmite, you either love it or hate it !*

*It was also proposed that just a few totally non-radio orientated lectures could be arranged. I felt that we already did have one or two and, after all, we are a 'Radio Club'.*

*A query was raised with reference to maximum numbers of people attending under the Fire Regulations, if all members were ever to attend. My response was that the committee were most likely already aware, under rules laid down by the school authorities.*

*Hopefully the net has provoked a few more listeners into pondering ideas of their own to add at the forum.*

## Members Forum -37 Attendees + 7 Committee

From the above notes these were considered the list of topics to discuss during the evening.

Any interest in a ladies evening etc

Live streaming of talks

More use of shack

Committee member to run nets

Quiz nights

Extra to barford

SES's appreciated

M0VRA – Barford Rally, says more members should help with the running of this event, it should not just be the committee.

G0PFN said could we put another rally on at the school instead of another one at Barford

G7URP – suggested enlarging one of the table top sales instead & the coach trip to Newark, rather than “dilute Barford” with another Rally event. NARC members could support the National Hamfest as the “other Rally”.

M0SWO said we already have 2 in the local area, Kings Lynn & Ipswich.

M0JKB said we would struggle to find a clear date so as to not conflict with another clubs or events in the East.

M0VRA also suggested that the NARC should provide brollies for the gate at Barford, most agreed a good idea and maybe NARC should purchase several brollies for that and another club activities, Radio Active etc.

M6UES wants more traders at Barford, he thinks it's just a techy car boot sale, Conversation ensued, it seems to have become a car boot sale rather than trade people. However it has to be worth the traders while attending and it does clash now with a bigger event up North, which attracts our likely traders.

M0HGR Monday night net suggested training on how to run the net, are people mic shy which maybe why they don't run the net.

G8VPE -There are net protocol guidance notes online for the net online

G3VPT – listened on Monday but there was a lot of abuse so he didn't join the net

G0PFN – ran the net for years & said it needed fresh blood running it to bring in new people but would be better to not be on the repeater as it gives flexibility to move away from abuse.

G0MQG interference has been dealt with in the past & we can deal with it again. Suggested a round table for teaching net operation

M0JKB offered to go to peoples houses to teach them how to run things or they could come to him.

It was suggested that the length of “overs” could be stopping activities, they should be shorter to allow overs to contribute quicker.

G3YLA said if new comers want to use the net they would join & we shouldn't worry about it, there were no younger members at the forum, is that an indication of there interest level.

G4DYC – heard the newbies net & confirmed it is still running.

G0DWV said there were a lot of comments from people attending the forum, saying “I was listening”, but why do these people not call in? Maybe the over's are too long and disjointed.

M6UES – external speakers particularly liked the talks from Paul Money can we have more of that type of things, G7URP highlighted that External speakers cost money and that the Programme Secretary has a budget to work too. Members need to be aware that external speakers in some cases claim Hotel and travel expenses, in some cases £120 is not uncommon.

G3SEM thanked the committee for their efforts & said that he joined a "radio club" and we should keep it as such. He wouldn't be interested in Non radio related subjects, but agreed that the hobby is broad enough to have something for everyone & that the committee should keep things as they are.

G3LDI says we have talks on radio & non-radio things. He has been asked to limit talks to twice a month to give 2 in formals to cater for everyone. Committee should offer run the Monday night nets, however that may not be everyone's cup of tea. Web streaming is a good idea but would it discourage members to actually come to the club, stating the K1ZZ visit where numbers were unusually low. Maybe the event could be broadcast the next day.

G3LDI & G0LGJ are going to rearrange the shack to make it more usable.

SES organised but not much support from members, still very much committee lead. G7URP asked members if the mix was about right? M0VRA thinks we have, G0MQG also agreed that it is the right mix. G3XLG doesn't agree & won't be coming to the in formals as he wants to come to a radio club not a social club. G3PDH feels that if members come on a talk night they should be in the room for the talk, not in the other room or sitting at the back talking!!! Rude people was the general agreement. G0ODR asked if we could use the school audio system to spread the sound around to the back, as sometimes very loud at the front, to be investigated.

G8VPE asked why members had to come to the club to talk, why can't they do it on the air?

M1AFQ said that not all the talks are for everyone but you don't necessarily know that until the talk is underway.

G3YLA The idea of the radio club is to learn, you shouldn't walk out of a talk because generally you can learn from them.

G0PFN thinks it will be difficult to get speakers for every week & it is nice to have in formals & we should use these nights to impart knowledge onto the younger members.

G0DWV highlighted that we are one of the best & biggest clubs in the UK, many other clubs only have one talk or meeting a month, we should consider ourselves lucky to have such a vibrant well supported club.

G3XLG asked if 20 speakers was achievable or is it too many? G3LDI said just about any more would be a struggle, stating cost and speaker availability as issues.

G3LDI wants to know where all the new licensees go after passing their license.

G0MQG – highlighted that not everything done at the club can be done on the air so in formal nights are important.

M0HGR – there is nothing in this room shows that this is actually a radio club as everything is shut in the shack. G3SEM suggested putting an A-board out to advertise the club. 2E0TWQ offered to do the signage for it. M6UES can we do anything to encourage more bright sparks?

M1AFQ want more talks that actually teach you something.

SES - are there too many? G7J TZ said they run their SES based on personal interest & get a team of people together based on this, they also operate without a rota. G0LGJ said that people requested a rota but don't seem to put their names down to operate or attend. 2E0TWQ said it is always the same faces that organise & set up.

### **Suggested Visits / Trips**

G0MQG – suggested take deposits for trips to try to get some commitment to avoid cancellation at the last moment (Wind Mills on the Air).

National Hamfest -Numbers interested = 16 (Friday) 1 for Saturday

G0LGJ suggested exploring car sharing instead of a coach. Several liked this idea.

M0VRA suggested using a hire mini bus instead of hiring a coach. Barford hire suggested as a company to approach.

Forum closed at 21.20