



Ridgeway Repeater Group Newsletter - Fourth Quarter 2023

This Quarter's 'Just around the corner' Rallies

Page 1

This Quarter's Notices

Page 2

- Obituary for Alec Duffield – G0BCO/G1DJJ.

This Quarter's Articles

Pages 3 to 8

There are two articles this quarter:

- Ken/G1NCG's piece about collecting, or hoarding, maybe? 😊
Thank you kindly Ken!

and

- Rob/G4XUT's write-up about "DX'ing" through GB3TD. 🇬🇧
Thank you kindly Rob!

This Quarter's 'Upcoming' Rallies

Page 9

Please; we need more items for inclusion in future newsletters. I'm currently holding ... precisely nothing ... and relying upon the generosity of a small handful of people to 'come up with the goods' each quarter.

It doesn't have to be 100% as I will take care of any 'adjustments' as may be needed and incorporate it into the layout.

Thanks kindly in advance.

Robin - G8VVY.

robin@myownemail.co.uk

'JUST AROUND THE CORNER' RALLIES

48TH WELSH RADIO RALLY

Date: 1st October, 10am-4pm
Traders welcome from 8am

Admittance: £3 – free parking

Venue: Llanwern High School,
Farm Rd, Newport, South Wales
NP18 2YE

Easy access from the M4.

Attractions: Trade stands, Bring
and Buy stand, special interest
groups and Raffle.

Raffle will be drawn at 12 p.m.

For more information contact:
welshradiorally@gw6gw.co.uk

or Mike Rackham/GW4JKV
rackhamone@aol.com

Home: 01495 226149
Mobile: 07976 368250

DARTMOOR AUTUMN RADIO RALLY

Date: 15th October, 10am-2pm

Admittance: £2:50 – free
parking

Attractions: Bring and Buy,
Trader stands and
Refreshments

Venue: Yelverton War Memorial
Hall, Meavy Lane, Yelverton,
Devon, PL20 6AL

Details: Roger 2E0RPH
2e0rph@gmail.com

Mobile: 07854 088882

Web:
<https://dartmoorradioclub.uk/>

Notices

1. Obituary for Alec Duffield – G0BCO/G1DJP

It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Alec Duffield, G0BCO/G1DJP, on the 15th June 2023.

Alec, who had lived in Swindon, was often heard on VHF and UHF using the GB3WH and GB3TD repeaters before moving away with his family from this area to Honiton in Devon.

Our thoughts go out to Alec's family at this very sad time.

Articles

1. Collecting, or perhaps hoarding 🤖 - by Ken – G1NCG

Outside of amateur radio, I have an interest in collecting things. One small 'hoard', sorry collection, which I think might be of interest to our readers, is my prized collection of Star Trek memorabilia.



First Set

From the top, and left to right are

- The Next Generation Communicator medium size badge
- The Next Generation Communicator medium size badge
- The Next Generation Communicator pin badge
- Voyager Communicator pin badge
- Q pin badge
- Voyager Communicator full size badge
- The Next Generation Communicator full size badge
- Star Trek Bajoran Communicator full size badge
- Star Trek Bajoran Major rank pin
- Star Trek Bajoran Captain rank pin
- Star Trek Bajoran 2nd Lieutenant rank pin
- The Next Generation Klingon Ceremonial Badge
- The Next Generation "Hollywood Pins" Borg pin
- The Next Generation Troi pin badge
- The Next Generation Klingon Communicator pin badge
- Star Trek 'Future Imperfect' Captain rank insignia



Here is the Borg pin in more detail

My intention is to put all of these on a velvet backing and to display them in a small Perspex box so they do not collect dust and deteriorate. I started collecting things like this a number of years ago and have added to them over the years, with help from my family by way of a number of gifts. I originally found a lot of these items in Holland, when I was working there, as I was making my way around the exhibitions with a friend.

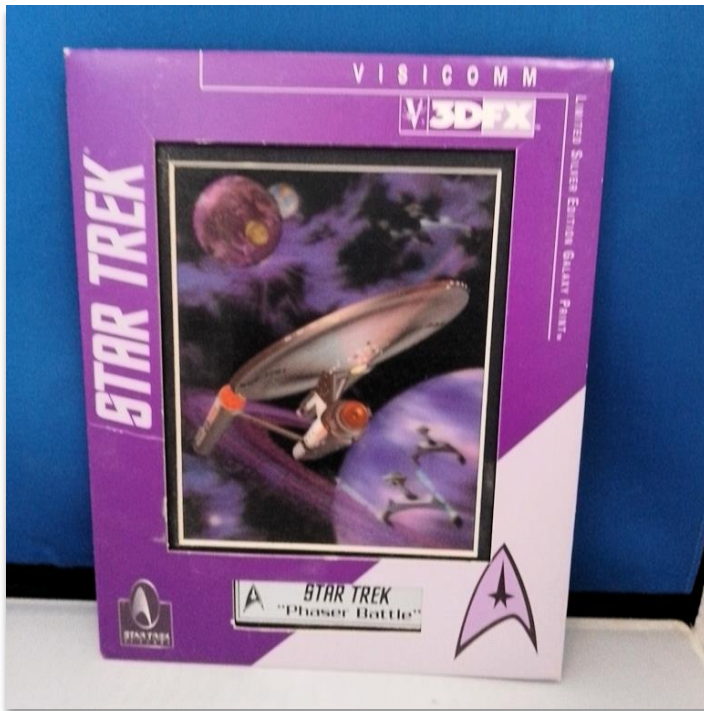
I amassed a lot of Star Trek related items; some I have kept, and some I have passed on as I ran out of space. I concentrated on two or three small shops that sold them and would visit these places, time permitting, occasionally to purchase further items of interest. I don't remember starting out deliberately wanting to display them, but as the collection has grown I thought it would be a good idea in order to maintain their originality.



Second Set

From the top, and left to right are

- Star Trek Cuff Links in a tin presentation box
- Star Trek The Original Series Playing Cards in a tin box
- 2 Phaser keyrings and a Tricorder keyring. These also make sounds! 😄
- The Next Generation \$100 bill signed by Patrick Stewart
- 30 Years Commemoration Card - gold coloured
- Star Trek watch
- The Next Generation Enterprise keyring
- Star Trek - The Original Series – beer mat with Kirk issuing an order
- U.S.S. Enterprise bottle opener
- Starfleet Academy keyring
- Small Enterprise badge
- 2 Star Trek The original Series Enterprise badges
- Federation of Planets badge
- Star Trek The Original Series Phaser badge
- The Next Generation large Communicator badge
- Small Enterprise 'E' keyring



This is a 3D picture that took my fancy when browsing in a shop and I thought; "I like that", so I acquired it.



This is a much prized acquisition as it is one single cell of film from the first Star Trek Movie, "The Motion Picture" and I thought that this would be a good addition to my collection.

(Ed. Note: Due to time constraints, Paramount were unable to produce any 70mm prints; they were all 35mm. A tiny number of 'blow-up' 70mm prints, from the 35mm inter-negative, were authorised and this is what this cel was taken from).

I would like to display as much of my collection as is possible but don't seem to get much time to perform these little details - such is life - so just have to deal with it. One day it will all be displayed somewhere, all being well, but until then these items will continue to stay boxed up.

In my collection I do have other items such as DVD's of the TV series. I have collected all three of the Star Trek The Original Series; all 1 to 7 of The Next Generation series; 5 out of the 7 series of Deep Space 9, 4 out of the series of Voyager. I have the 10 films on DVD from the The Original Series and The Next Generation films but not the new ones. I don't like the way they have been portrayed. If they had taken a different direction, then maybe they would be in my collection. I have enjoyed the new versions of the Star Trek Universe series episodes of Discovery and Picard; also the off shoot Strange New Worlds and the very latest Star Trek shorts that I have found on Discovery Plus. I did find these fascinating.

2. GB3TD and 'DX'! - by Rob – G4XUT

To me, DX is a distant contact which is outside of what we term as normal or under special or enhanced circumstances.

All very relevant don't you think? Repeaters are not known for claiming working of DX as it's the repeater which is more often than not nicely sited in a high location or in an area which is not well served for VHF or UHF.

However, it's sometimes worth noting that the "normal" coverage for a repeater can change either due to atmospheric enhancement or a station outside of the coverage being in a high or advantageous location.

Whilst I was on holiday in deepest Dorset on 19th July 2023, I thought; "There's a nice hill near Swanage, I must try it for radio propagation and get that heart pumping well".

I must say that the adjacent Nine Barrow Hill which has radio masts on it looked inviting and being much higher would have created a good challenge for me.

My choice is named Dean Hill (ASL 120m), which has an obelisk on it. I cheated a bit and caught the number 50 open top 'Breezer' bus from Swanage railway station toward Studland village and getting off at the Deans Hill bus stop. Equipped with a snack, a cold drink and my Anytone 878 hand portable radio and stock antenna, I set off.

On a sunny, breezy but very acceptable day, I plodded up the hill and found the obelisk.

Wonderful views of the Studland coastline and Poole Harbour and northwards so let's try the radio?

Despite having no luck accessing GB3WH on VHF, I tried UHF and GB3TD.

I had an immediate response from John, G1OQV (and Neil, 2E0OQV), and held the QSO for over 40 minutes, even on the low power setting.

My report; apart from the westerly wind noise John said I was 5-9 even on low power. The signal from TD was a fully quieting one. The only rather strange effect was as I stood closer to the obelisk, TD's signal took a dive all rather strange, eh?

I described to John where I was at the Obelisk and an old OS Benchmark? See the photos below.

(Ed. Note: Had a good look on the web for this benchmark stone. The consensus is that it is a Government property mark associated with Swanage Water Works. I looked at OS maps – old and new – and it doesn't appear anywhere. The figures appear to represent 485.48 ft asl.)

The obelisk was placed there to commemorate the supply of pure clean water to Swanage in 1883.

The obelisk had been demolished in 1941 WW2 to prevent it being of assistance to the enemy but later re-erected by The Royal Engineers after the war.

I am aware that others have tried radio from lots of high hills and even mountains but wanted to mark this lovely location where you can work back to TD quite easily. The photos are of the obelisk, the Benchmark stone, a view looking North and a satellite image courtesy of Google.





If you have found other DX locations for TD, please let us know 😊!

RALLIES

CARMARTHEN ARS SURPLUS EQUIPMENT SALE

Date: 4th November, 10am-5pm (8:30am for traders)

Admittance: £1

Traders: Up to 3 tables per person available for hire:
Small ones - £5 each
Larger ones: £10 each

Venue:

Attractions: Refreshments

Further details from: Andy,
GW0JLX, 07768 282880 or
Cwmduad Community Centre,
Cwmduad, Carmarthenshire.
SA33 6XN
info@cwmduadcommunitycentre.co.uk

COULSDON AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY BAZAAR

Date: 19th November, 10am-2pm to the public

Admittance: £3

Tables: £12 first, £8 additional

Traders, Bring and Buy, Club table and car parking

Venue: Oasis Academy,
Homefield Rd, Old Coulsdon,
CR5 1ES

For more information contact:
bazaar@catsradio.org.uk

RALLIES

WILTSHIRE WINTER INDOOR RADIO RALLY

Date: 25th November, 9am-1:30pm

Admittance: £3 per person,
(under 16s free)

Disabled (wheelchair users) are allowed early access to the indoor area from 8.30am.

2 halls and some outdoor space

SELLERS / TRADERS / EXHIBITORS are welcome to set up between 7.30 and 8.30am.

~~Hall space — £10 per table for sellers~~ **Sold Out!**

Outdoor pitches:
Car/£10
Van/£15

Venue: Kington Langley Village Hall, Kington Langley, CHIPPENHAM. Wiltshire. SN15 5NJ

Attractions: Disabled parking available, hot and cold refreshments on site

For further information please contact:

Brian/G6HUI
chairman@chippenhamradio.club

RALLIES

1ST MID-DEVON AMATEUR RADIO & COMPUTER FAIR

Date: 9th December, 9am-2pm

Admittance: £3 (with no charge for partners and under 16s)

Traders: £5 per 6-foot frontage + £5 if you require physical table(s). First-come-first-served, pre-booking advance recommended. Mains electricity should be available to most traders FOC

Ample parking

Venue: Winkleigh Sports & Recreation Centre, Beech Avenue, Winkleigh, Mid-Devon, EX19 8HZ

Talk-in on: S22 and South West cluster (DMR TG950 slot 2)

Attractions: Hot food and refreshments; hard to find electronic components; 2-way radio and computer hardware

To pre-book, please contact:
Phil, G6DLJ, 07990 563147 or
email: philbridges@hotmail.com