

Quarter Wave News

Rampisham Goes QRT!

MidSARC members were amongst the last visitors to see the ageing shortwave transmission station in operation



Following the BBC's announcement in January 2011 of its plans to reduce the number of hours of shortwave broadcasting to the world, the Rampisham Down Transmission Station in Dorset has now closed down with the loss of 19 jobs. The station was owned and operated by Babcock Engineering.

MidSARC members were treated to a full and unrestricted visit in February and marvelled at the somewhat 'classic' technology that was still in use at the site.

The BBC plans to axe its shortwave services completely by 2014 so it would appear that further closures of these historic sites are inevitable.

Plans for a Busy 2012

Following the encouraging open-forum discussions after this year's AGM in October, the MidSARC committee has plans for an active year ahead. It's hoped that the Club will be involved with several special-event stations during the year with *Mills On The Air*, and Shepton Mallet's *Collett Day* high on the agenda. We're also planning to have a stand at the annual *QRP In The Country* event in Dorset, and a possible joint effort celebrating *International Marconi Day*.



2012 also sees the 100 year commemoration of the sinking of the Titanic. More news of these events as we move into spring . . .

. . . so watch this space!

The Committee

MIDSARC TALKS FOR 2012

Our speaker for January will be Mike Adams from The Far East Broadcasting Company. Mike will talk about the use of FM Broadcast in disaster response where aid workers can fly into disaster zones and train teams to operate the equipment. February sees the return of Charlie Ollis who entertained us back in November 2010 with a fascinating talk on his career as a Merchant Navy radio officer and



a brief history of Portishead Radio GKA. Charlie will present part two of his talk.

There are more AR related talks planned for spring and summer and details will always be available on the Club website: www.midsarc.org.uk

Suggestions for future talks and events are always welcome, so please let us know of your thoughts and ideas.

MIDSARC WEBSITE



top: MidSARC's website Home Page

below: How to find the Club venue in Shepton Mallet

www.midsarc.org.uk

The MidSARC website has been in operation for a few years now and contains information about how to find the Club venue and most importantly news of forthcoming Club evenings and events.

Websites are only as good as their content and then, if the content's not fresh and informative, the site will serve little purpose. The webmaster is always keen to receive items for inclusion on the website and that includes photos, news of events in the region or just some exciting news about QSOs or rare contacts that have been made.

The cost of website hosting is not cheap either, so it makes sense to utilize this resource as much as possible to make it cost-effective.

There have been suggestions about a web-based forum for discussions with other members and friends of MidSARC and these are all areas which can be explored for the future.

In the meantime, did you know that there is a Market Place page where items of amateur radio and related equipment can be advertised for sale or wanted?

We've had some successful contributors already and it's free to advertise.

nick.bennett@midsarc.org.uk

There are links available on the website that point to other organisations related to amateur radio. Please let us know if you would like a link to your website, or if any of our links are out of date or broken. Thanks!



CLUB 80 METRE NET

Not the most successful of nets it must be said but we keep trying! Listen out on Wednesdays at 20.00 local on 3.6500 MHz lsb +/- QRM. Hopefully there'll be at least one MidSARC member calling out! Look forward to a chat if conditions are favourable.

MIDSARC - HOW TO JOIN

If you're not a member and would like to join MidSARC or find out more about the exciting hobby of amateur radio, we would love to hear from you. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month at Peter Street Rooms, Peter Street, Shepton Mallet BA4 5BL. Contact the club Secretary Nick Bennett M6NJB or our Chairman Terry Thompson MoALZ via our website.



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MIDSARC



2011 has been quite an eventful year for MidSARC and we hope that the New Year will bring new and exciting opportunities to further the hobby of amateur radio in Somerset. We look forward to seeing you soon at one of our regular Club meetings.

Happy New Year!

This newsletter has been sent to MidSARC members and other contacts known to the Club. If you would prefer not to receive further correspondence from MidSARC, please let us know and we'll remove you from our list