

Thames Amateur Radio Group

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Social TARG

"We're not just about what antenna you've got?" - as eloquently expressed by Huw M0LHT the net Controller on 14th Dec. Having a laugh is as important as what frequency you're on. We had two organised social events:



The Christmas meal where our youngest licence holder (10yrs) Jenson M6OIU won the raffle; and our club Christmas where he also picked the first ticket! Thanks to Belinda M6JNX for organising both events and taking the trouble to wrap the mystery prizes.



TARGet Nite

We weren't sure whether members wanted a 'hands-on' TARGet nite so soon to Christmas (21st Dec, 8pm) so we took a vote; clearly the event is very popular to members as there was a "yes". This event is proving to be really useful.

Online Passes



The BIG news of Dec has to be the inauguration of online Exams at TARG and the success of all four candidates. They instantly knew if they had passed (which made all the difference over the old paper version) and they got their call signs in time for this edition of our newsletter. Congratulations to:

- Steve, M0OAD
- Andrew, M0ONH
- Ken, M0XKG
- Deb's M0LHD

This was a bold decision by the Committee after several months of pondering as there is always uncertainty with anything new - but having done it and seen the benefits this is the way forward.

But there is more to come:

The training Team met in Dec to discuss the new RSGB syllabus. We'll be re-newing the content and delivery style of training in 2019. We have invested in a modern "Interactive White Board" for the benefit of students.



The popular weekend courses will stay. TARG exam success rate is an amazing 94% - I wonder if we can make it an almost impossible 100% next year?

3rd Time Lucky

On the last two occasions we tried to arrange an informal operating event it rained. Fingers crossed, we are hoping for better WX on Sun 30th Dec at Two Tree Island from 09:00hrs. Post Code: SS9 2GB. But keep an eye on Twitter and Website just in case!

What's Up

This is what we have planned so far for 2019:

- How to avoid being scammed, and knots for field days.
- Deciphering strange HF signals; you will have heard them, but what are they?
- "All things Micro"; miniaturising of radio related projects.
- Practical programming of Code Plugs for DMR.
- Rapid Deployment Radio; in the event of a catastrophe.
- VHF Propagation. A special event with a surprise twist.
- De-mystifying electronics.
- More Field Days at Hadleigh Country Park, Wat Tyler Country Park, Two Tree Island and a potential new location.
- Construction and operating at TARGet Nite.
- Friday night Voice Net
- Friday night slow Morse Net

To make a real difference to the club's future, and to enhance your knowledge and skills, consider joining the Committee - even as an observer to see if it's for you.

That's all Folks

On behalf of the Committee and membership of Thames Amateur Radio Group, we wish you a

Happy
Christmas
and
peaceful
New Year.

