



Monthly meetings at the BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, BS34 7RF

THE CHALLENGE OF BIG DATA

Professor Chris Budd OBE G4NBG



Amateur radio led the way in the communication revolution we see today. Information now plays a huge role in the modern world, with vast amounts of data literally at our finger tips. The Internet is leading to an ever-increasing amount of data, leading to the challenge of Big Data in which we have to deal with huge amounts of data of direct relevance to people lives. Without mathematics, we would be unable to store, transmit, interpret, process or understand any of this. The rise of Big Data is associated not only with major technological challenges, but also with significant ethical and privacy issues, and has major policy implications. In this talk I will describe the nature and problems associated with Big Data, some of the maths associated with understanding it and why it is relevant to Amateur radio.

TX FACTOR

Nick Bennett 2E0FGQ & Mike Marsh G1IAR



At our September meeting, we had a very interesting talk about the amateur radio television programme the “TX Factor” that is distributed via Youtube. The “TX Factor” team comprises three people, although they admitted that they sometimes give the impression that more are involved; Nick Bennett 2E0FGQ is a professional freelance sound recordist who earns his living working on “Flog it”, “Bargain hunt” and other TV documentaries. He is not seen much on “TX Factor” because he does all the filming and editing. Mike Marsh G1IAR is one of the programmes presenters and is a sound engineer in the music industry. He has his own studio in Exmouth, where his main work is mastering music tracks ie; producing the final mix from the various tracks that make up the music. Mike also presents radio shows. The final member, who was not able to be present, is Bob McCreadie G0FGX. Bob is a radio presenter, who does the breakfast show on Radio Plymouth and is the lead presenter for the “TX Factor”.

The show is made possible by the sponsorship of the RSGB and Martin Lynch & Sons. The team take no salary for themselves, just expenses such as travelling, hotels when they have to stay away. The first shows were sponsored by Yaesu Musen of Japan, but they dropped out when equipment from Chinese suppliers was featured. The team were keen to point out that they have complete editorial control and the sponsors do not veto content. The project was launched in February 2014 and 18 episodes have now been produced. They are published at two monthly intervals, to co-incide with Radcom publication dates. There is also an audio only version. They have so far racked up 330,000 viewings. There are also Facebook and Twitter accounts available. Besides the familiar programmes, the team also produce GB2RS podcasts and various films for commercial clients, such as Icom UK. The programmes typically last about an hour and feature three topics. Each minute of final programme takes about an hour of studio/editing time. Throughout the talk, the team invited questions and a lively discussion ensued, particularly on the subject of background music. The older people present (ie everyone!) felt that this was often too loud and intrusive and made the dialogue difficult to understand. Mike said that the current trend in music is for maximum loudness, with very little dynamic range between quiet and loud passages. He was certain that many young people who listen to this on in-ear headphones will suffer hearing damage in the future. This was a very entertaining evening and if you are one of the people who have not yet viewed the TX Factor, you can see it at;

<http://www.txfilms.co.uk/txfactor/index.html> or

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnfnPpcvCwxqINDHX_bJIXg

NEWS BRIEFS

At the September meeting, our Chairman John G4DVV advised the following items;

Post of Secretary

Shaun G8VPG had agreed to act as Secretary for one year, but will not continue after this. It is vital that a replacement is found. The committee will meet in November and it would be ideal if a nomination can be found then. Alternatively, someone needs to volunteer by the AGM on 29th January.

Membership Subscription

Anyone joining the Group between now and the AGM will have their subscription extended to the whole of 2018. Three months free! The annual subscription is £10 and membership secretary Ron G4GTD will be pleased to recruit you at the next meeting.

TL922 HF Linear for sale

Robin G3TKF is selling his TL922 HF Linear. I am told that it has had a "little light use", but you had better check this with Robin robin@g3tkf.co.uk

RALLIES & EVENTS

A selection of radio rallies & events within reasonable travelling distance of Bristol.

13-15 October	RSGB Convention Milton Keynes
15 October	Holsworthy ARC Rally
5 November	West London Radio & Electronics Show Kempton Park Racecourse
19 November	Plymouth Rally Plympton
11 February	Harwell Radio Rally Didcot
25 March	Wythall Radio Rally South Birmingham
15 April	West London Radio & Electronics Show Kempton Park Racecourse
24 June	West of England Radio Rally Frome

AROUND THE LOCAL CLUBS

Bath & DARC <http://badarc.webs.com>

Chepstow & DARC www.gw4lwz.co.uk

Chippenham & DARC www.g3vre.org.uk

Mid-Somerset ARC www.midsarc.org.uk

North Bristol ARC www.nbarc.org.uk

Shirehampton ARC www.shirehampton-arc.org.uk

South Bristol ARC www.sbarc.co.uk

Thornbury & South Glos.ARC www.tsgarc.uk

Trowbridge & DARC www.tdarc.uk

Weston-super-Mare RS www.g4wsm.club

If your club has a major event or talk by a “star” speaker, send details to the secretary – g8vpg@aol.com – and I will be pleased to include it here. Also, please send reports & photographs of your recent activities and any news.

RSGB DEPUTY REGIONAL MANAGER

For many years, Dick Elford G0XAY has done sterling service as our RSGB Deputy Regional Manager ie: our local representative. Dick has indicated that he would like to retire when his present term ends next year and therefore a replacement is required. The DRM is appointed by the Regional Manager Pam Heliwell G7SME. If you are interested in this post, please speak to Pam or Dick to learn more; rm11@rsgb.org.uk g0xay@aol.com

73 Shaun G8VPG, Honorary Secretary.