

Aberdeen Amateur Radio Society

Secretary's Report 2026

As in previous years the club took part in a range of Field and other events. In particular there were quite a number of trips to the Clashindarroch Forest car park. During these events members carried out a number of experiments involving antennas of various types, a variety of radio/antenna/power source arrangements for club events as well as assisting members refine their own arrangements for contests etc. It is unfortunate, however, that more members do not take advantage of these opportunities as there are always things to be learned and surprises to be had. For example, we recently had a CW pile up with Japan with 100 watts and a linked dipole. AARS has also taken part in Mills on the air, Chapels on the air and a Special Event to raise awareness and donations for the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA). The club recently purchased a new tent for these field visits and this has proved to be a good decision. We are grateful to Jane Booth (GM7EST) who loaned her tent to the club for several outings.

Over the year there have been a number of enquiries regarding training for Licences at all three levels. These are passed on to Peter Thomson who handles the training sessions on Saturday mornings. It is, perhaps, unfortunate that more of those who receive training from the club do not go on to be members of the club, and attend Thursday evening meetings.

One of the most difficult jobs of the Secretary is persuading members to give talks and demonstrations etc. However, there have been a number of excellent talks and demonstrations during the year and I am very grateful to those who did and obviously took so much time and effort to share their expertise or experiences with other members.

Special thanks should go to Graham Sangster (GM4OBD) for his weekly CW training opportunities before the start of each meeting. I am also grateful to Allan Duncan (GM4ZUK) for updating the website and sending out 'round-Robin' emails to all members.

It is 80 years since AARS was founded in 1946 and the club celebrated with a lunch at the Atholl Hotel in July. We also had a visit from Bob Beebe, RSGB President, to mark the occasion. This was well attended and those present were entertained by Bob who gave us an insight to his approach and to the future of the RSGB.

Junk Sales continue to be a successful source of income for the club, and an opportunity for members to purchase items at very competitive prices. Indeed, many members only come to Junk sales. Recently much of the items for sale in recent months have been from Silent Key situations.

At the AGM this year, three of the present committee have indicated that they wish to step down. Dennis Cowe, as Vice President, David Wilson, as a committee member, and myself as a committee member and Secretary. After 15 years as Secretary I feel it is time to hand over the baton. This will mean that members at the AGM will have to elect replacements. Each member proposed will need a proposer, a seconder and have indicated their willingness to stand. The new Secretary will be chosen by the Committee at their first meeting after the AGM.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee and AARS members for their support during my tenure as secretary.

Fred Gordon (GM3ALZ)
AARS Secretary October 2026