MERG West of Scotland Area Group

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Email

To send us an email, use the MERG Area Group contact form
For MERG members, you might also like to look at our area group forum.

Who are the leaders of the group?

M1853 Davy Dick *Group Leader*
M4589 Bob Young *Deputy Group Leader*
M5195 George Parkinson *Deputy Group Leader*

Meetings

We see ourselves as a mutual-assistance group, where members look to each other for advice, help and support. Our members range from having little electronic knowledge to being fairly advanced. Interested members co-operate on their specific interests – e.g. everything from soldering skills and kit building to 3D printing and PIC and Arduino programming. The group aims to cater for all levels of skill. There is no specific commitments required from those who join. Members can put in and take out as much as they wish. None of us know everything and we can all learn from each other in a more informal manner than through the MERG forums and email groups. Of course, you don't have to participate in the Area Group, but you might find that we have a lot to offer - and learn - from each other.

We were very active prior to Covid-19, with all-members meetings in Glasgow on Sundays and fortnightly drop-in sessions on alternate Friday afternoons. In addition, we ran a selection of training workshops on basic electronics, kit building, using oscilloscopes, layout planning software, etc.

Here is a typical members' session.

Previous discussions included power supplies and cutouts, layout wiring, fault finding methods, automation, motors, servos and steppers, making control panels, PCB design software, etc.

And the Next Meeting?

Date	Event	Description	Location	Link
09:00 04-May	Brisbane Model Train Show	This is the annual Brisbane Model Train Show where the SEQLD Group will have a display.	RNA Brisbane	
10:00 04-May	Tayside Area Group Workshop	Tayside AG members meet to work on a group or their own project. All those registered to the group are welcome to attend. Come along and get solutions to those problems that are holding you back.	The Friary, Tullideph Road, Dundee, DD2 2PN	
10:00 04-May	MERG Somerset Area Group Meeting	This is an online meeting where Paul H will present A beginners guide to LightBurn software for creating designs for Laser cutting on a cheap laser cutter. Time for other discussions/presentations will be available contact us to request a slot. *To get zoom joining information ensure that you are subscribed to the Somerset Area Group in (Your Profile) and view the meeting in (My Upcoming Events).*	Online Zoom Meeting	
09:00 05-May	Brisbane Model Train Show	This is the annual Brisbane Model Train Show were the SEQLD Area Group will have a display.	RNA Brisbane	
11:00 05-May	Wexford MRC Exhibition 2024		St Joseph's Community Centre, Newline Road, Wexford Town, Ireland	Link
19:00 05-May	19:00 BST 3D SIG Fusion	Fusion getting started with Fusion Essentials	Online Zoom Meeting	

Date	Event	Description	Location	Link
19:00 07-May	19:30 GMT MERG Thames Valley Area Group (TVAG) meeting		Grazeley Village Hall	
19:30 08-May	19:30 BST Pi Sig SIG Zoom Meeting	Details to be added	Online Zoom Meeting	
14:00 09-May	Croydon AG Afternoon Workshop	Afternoon Workshop: Kit building, Kit repair, CBUS, JMRI, mobile phone and Raspberry Pi layout control.	Croydon Model Railway Society Clubhouse	
19:30 09-May	19:30 BST South Hants AG Zoom Call		Online Zoom Meeting	
19:30 09-May	19:30 BST South Hants AG Merg Live Meet.		Southampton Model Railway Society clubroom	
14:00 10-May	Wales North AG Zoom Meeting	GENERAL CHAT AND WHATS ON MY WORKBENCH / HELP & SUPPORT	Online Zoom Meeting	
19:00 10-May	Croydon Area Group Meeting	Machine Mastery - The Art of Programming - Allan	Croydon Model Railway Society Clubhouse	
10:30 11-May	South West Herts MRS Exhibition	Annual Model Railway Exhibition with 20+ layouts, trade support, refreshemnts & Merg stand.	Queens School Bushey, Watford, WD23 2TY	Link
14:00 11-May	14:00 Merseyside AG Zoom meeting	We will have a brief overview of the last face to face meeting, Followed by a talk on the 2nd "Here's a Gizmo!" series of talks, which will cover the Arduino Deek motor shield, by John Holmes. This will form part of the test plank for future use at Lawlogg meetings.	Online Zoom Meeting	
19:00 12-May	19.00 BST 3D SIG Fusion Essentials	Part 2 of the weekly series By Malcolm Asker and Russ Davies Fusion Essentials	Online Zoom Meeting	
16:00 13-May	ATC SIG Zoom	Monthly ATC SIG Zoom call. Discussions about ATC hardware, software and interconnections. You are very welcome to join us if you need advice on how to use the ATC on your layout.	Online Zoom Meeting	Link
19:30 13-May	JALSIG Meeting	Members meet up to discuss projects they have been working on.	Online Zoom Meeting	Link
19:30 15-May	Tayside Area Group Zoom session	Tayside members meet via Zoom to discuss what they have been working on.	Online Zoom Meeting	
14:00 16-May	Croydon AG Afternoon Workshop	Afternoon Workshop: Kit building, Kit repair, CBUS, JMRI, mobile phone and Raspberry Pi layout control.	Croydon Model Railway Society Clubhouse	
19:30 16-May	19:30 BST South Hants AG Zoom Call		Online Zoom Meeting	

Date	Event	Description	Location	Link
11:00 17-May	MERG Somerset Area Group Virtual Coffee Break	This is an online coffee break where members can relax and chat among themselves about Projects, Progress, Problems and Successes.	Online Zoom Meeting	
14:00 17-May	Cumbria AG	Watch, Ask, Learn	Online Zoom Meeting	
09:30 18-May	09:30 BST South Hants Saturday Workshop		Southampton Model Railway Society clubroom	
10:00 19-May	MERG East Midlands Area Group face to face meeting May 2024	Railcom themed meeting including demonstrations and a talk by Michael Smith	Kingsway Centre, Wellingborough	Link
19:00 19-May	19.00 BST 3D SIG Fusion Essentials	Part 3 of the weekly series By Malcolm Asker and Russ Davies Fusion Essentials	Online Zoom Meeting	
19:30 20-May	E101 Projects Update	Regular E101 meeting to discuss project progress.	Online Zoom Meeting	
19:30 23-May	19:30 BST South Hants AG Zoom Call		Online Zoom Meeting	
14:00 24-May	Wales North AG Zoom Meeting	GENERAL CHAT AND WHATS ON MY WORKBENCH / HELP & SUPPORT	Online Zoom Meeting	
18:00 24-May	1st Bangor Model Railway Club		City Church, Main Street, BT20 4AG	
11:00 26-May	Irish AG: Workshop on NCE DCC and supplementary equipment	A look at NCE DCC equipment and the compatible supplementary devices from MERG and other manufacturers.	Wexford	
19:00 26-May	19.00 BST 3D SIG Fusion Essentials	Part 4 of the weekly series By Malcolm Asker and Russ Davies Fusion Essentials	Online Zoom Meeting	
19:30 27-May	JALSIG Beginners' Session	We look at topics of interest to Beginners to coding in JAL to help them on their way to creating their own programs.	Online Zoom Meeting	
19:30 30-May	19:30 BST South Hants AG Zoom Call		Online Zoom Meeting	
14:00 31-May	Cumbria AG	Watch, Ask, Learn	Online Zoom Meeting	
10:00 01-Jun	Tayside Area Group Workshop	Tayside AG members meet to work on a group or their own project. All those registered to the group are welcome to attend. Come along and get solutions to those problems that are holding you back.	The Friary, Tullideph Road, Dundee, DD2 2PN	
10:00 01-Jun	MERG Somerset Area Group Workshop	Subjects to be decided nearer the time but a practical session so bring your tools and equipment to be sure of contributing. Feel free to bring your questions and non-working kits along for help by other members.	St James Church Hall, Preston Road Yeovil BA21 3RL	

Date	Event	Description	Location	Link
19:00 02-Jun	19.00 BST 3D SIG Fusion Essentials	Part 2 of the weekly series By Malcolm Asker and Russ Davies Fusion Essentials	Online Zoom Meeting	
19:00 04-Jun	19:30 GMT MERG Thames Valley Area Group (TVAG) meeting		Grazeley Village Hall	
19:30 06-Jun	19:30 BST South Hants AG Zoom Call		Online Zoom Meeting	
14:00 07-Jun	Wales North AG Zoom Meeting	GENERAL CHAT AND WHATS ON MY WORKBENCH / HELP & SUPPORT	Online Zoom Meeting	
20:00 07-Jun	Monthly Virtual AG meeting		Online Zoom Meeting	
16:00 10-Jun	ATC SIG Zoom	Monthly ATC SIG Zoom call. Discussions about ATC hardware, software and interconnections. You are very welcome to join us if you need advice on how to use the ATC on your layout.	Online Zoom Meeting	Link
19:30 10-Jun	JALSIG Meeting	Members meet up to discuss projects they have been working on.	Online Zoom Meeting	Link

Other Activities

Here is one of our demonstration layouts that show how to fit MERG kits to augment

model railways.

Here is our annual Open Day where we had demonstrations of building baseboards, track laying, point controllers, DCC, layout controls (CBUS and EzyBus), adding lighting, adding sound, Faller road systems, 3D printing, Arduino projects ....

Here is a training workshops we ran on programming Arduinos.

At the moment, we keep in touch with each other through our national and our local websites.

We also have fortnightly Zoom sessions on alternate Sunday afternoons. Subjects covered included:

* Making latching reed switches for coach lighting

* Reusing parts salvaged from old printers and scanners

* Resin 3D printing

* Building animations

* Measuring voltage and current in DCC systems

Links

[Help page for coordinators](#)