Ham Radio Ireland

Ag freastal ar thraidisiúin agus ar spiorad an raidió amaitéarach

Editor: *Steve Wright - EI5DD* *wright14@gmail.com* Vol. 3 Issue 06 December 2025

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

HAM RADIO IRELAND

Ham Radio Ireland has been well supported and we have achieved over 40,000 downloads from our links in over 68 countries over the last year.

It is a fact that we are the ONLY independent Radio Magazine in Ireland geared towards the Radio Experimenter.

We repeat forthcoming events in our News Section right up to their date of operation. In this way we hope to encourage many groups or clubs to take part. If you have an event planned feel free to promote it through our Magazine

Through the Collective Communications Group, Ham Radio Ireland was re-launched in January 2025. This magazine is for all radio amateurs and electronics experimenters! We remain non political in all respects of the hobby. We wiil endeavour to print any radio orientated articles submitted to us.

We ensure interesting and vibrant articles and we endeavour not to appear like a parish newsletter.

Special thanks to the many who have supported this Magazine and encouraged us to re-launch it. By popular demand no less!

We publish bi-monthly and welcome any articles from Amateur Radio circles and CB or PMR 446 operators.

We primarily seek technical articles covering home built equipment, antennas, outdoor portable operating, VHF, UHF, Microwave and Satellite operation.

If you have never written an article before - NOT A PROBLEM as we will help in any way possible.

We welcome Feedback
If you enjoyed this publication please email
Steve EI5DD
wright14@gmail.com

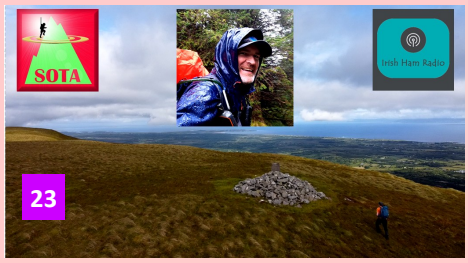
Contents December 2025

News and Events

Features

Submitting Items for This Magazine

We are always delighted to receive any radio related material for this magazine in word format. Pictures should submitted in an uncompressed JPG format to ensure best quality reproduction.



Cover Image

Christmas theme especially for Ham Radio Ireland Magazine

Want to become Member

Contact us and we can give you info on the options available.
this year we can now offer public liability insurance per individual.
Standard membership €10.00
Membership with cover €15.00

you can pay via Paypal:
collei3cc@gmail.com
or Revolut: @john83mj6

News and Forthcoming Events Planning 2025

Freedom of association: a right in danger in amateur radio

Some IARU R1 member societies have threatened their members with expulsion if they join EURAO, clearly violating freedom of association, a fundamental right enshrined in article 12 of the *EU Charter of Fundamental Rights*.

The "argument" put forward by these societies is that EURAO is a competitor, overlooking the fact that IARU and EURAO are also collaborators in areas of common interest, such as CEPT. And if they don't remember that, they should see the joint statement resulting from the 2017 meeting between both organizations.

For this reason, EURAO does not rule out taking appropriate legal action if the case arises, beyond the crude and stupid threat.

We know that it seems incredible that this mentality is still in force today, but it is and we will do everything possible to unmask and combat it. Some would need to brush up on their **HAM SPIRIT**...

Parks On The Air

Currently POTA has 5 official events throughout the year, as detailed below.
Events start at **00:00:00 UTC** and end **23:59:59 UTC** on the days listed:

New Year's Week

First full week of the new year. January 1-7, 2026
Casual contacts to help ring in the new year!

Support Your Parks

This event happens seasonally, on the 3rd full weekend of the month (Saturday & Sunday UTC). These are 'activity weekends' where the main purpose is to get out in the parks, and have as much fun as possible.

Winter - 3rd Full Weekend of January. January 17 –18, 2026

Spring - 3rd Full Weekend of April. April 18 –19, 2026

Summer - 3rd Full Weekend of July. July 18 –19, 2026

Autumn - 3rd Full Weekend of October. October 17-18, 2026

More Info: https://docs.pota.app/

We Have a Facebook Page

Ham Radio Ireland

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1437072523434876

European Radio Amateurs' Organization

the open global radio amateurs community

EURAO was established to promote and support the interests of amateur radio operators across Europe and around the world. For two decades, it has provided a strong voice for hams, encouraging cooperation, technical advancement, and friendship among radio amateurs globally. Whether you're chasing special event stations, participating in EURAO activities, or simply curious, thank you for stopping by. We appreciate your QSO and your interest in amateur radio! In a very short period of time, EURAO has managed to gather around itself many radio amateurs from all over the world in an exciting collective project that has received recognition from many international bodies.
Association, clubs, groups and individuals are part of this young, global and open ecosystem called European Radio Amateurs' Organization. Thanks to all for your support.

Hams Needed To Track NASA Moon Mission

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is seeking volunteers to passively track the 2026 Artemis II Orion spacecraft as the crewed mission travels to the Moon and back to Earth. The Artemis II test flight will send NASA astronauts Reid Wiseman, KF5LKT; Victor Glover, KI5BKC; and Christina Koch, along with Canadian Space Agency (CSA) astronaut Jeremy Hansen, KF5LKU, on an approximately 10-day mission around the Moon. Targeted for no later than April 2026, the mission will rely on NASA's Near Space Network and Deep Space Network for primary communications and tracking support throughout its launch, orbit, and re-entry. However, with a growing focus on commercialization, NASA wants to further understand industry's tracking capabilities. If you're interested in volunteering for next year's event, all of the information can be found at SAM.gov. The response deadline is October 27, 2025, at 5:00 PM EDT

WWFF, World Wide Flora and Fauna in Amateur Radio, is encouraging licensed ham radio operators to leave their shacks and go outside operating portable in Protected Flora & Fauna areas (PFF) all over the world.

Irish Net

Active not only on Sundays, but most weekdays starting at around **16:00 UTC, the informal gathering on 14.156 MHz** frequently suffers from QRM during contests and DXers unaware of this long standing net of North American operators with an Irish connection. In a recent contact on 20m with WI1IDP, QTH Tuscon Arizona, operator Jerry confirmed that the net now also uses the **17m band** operating **on 18.112 MHz** moving up in increments of 3KHz. This move avoids the increased QRM on 20m and taking advantage of improved propagation conditions.

Ham Radio Ireland Now in Two Formats

Ham Radio Ireland now comes in two formats. Recently we introduced the new Flip book format which is similar to the ARRL and RSGB digital format. Apart from reading this on line it is possible to download the PDF File by clicking on the cloud icon. We retain the traditional " Docdroid" download page where the magazine can be read page by page. Current and back issues may be downloaded in both formats and maybe accessed from:
https://galwayvhfgroup.blogspot.com/2022/06/connacht-regional-radio-newsletter.html

Episode 33 is part 2 of a two - part special, where we bring much of the action from this year's National Hamfest rally at Newark in Nottinghamshire, UK. We feature news from some of the big equipment manufacturers, as well as the smaller companies and individuals bringing exciting amateur radio technology to our shacks plus the latest updates from our sponsors the Radio Society of Great Britain
http://www.txfactor.co.uk/episode-33.html

GB2RS 70th Anniversary Celebrations Continue

Celebrations continue for the 70th anniversary of the RSGB's weekly news broadcast GB2RS. A special callsign GB70RS will be active throughout the year operated by the radio amateurs who deliver the GB2RS new each week and RSGB Headquarters staff. Operation will be on all modes and all bands. More info from https://rsgb.org/main/gb2rs/gb2rs-70th-anniversary/

Lagan Valley Amateur Radio Society are holding their Annual Rally on Saturday, 1st March 2025 at

Hillsborough Village Centre, 7 Ballynahinch Road, Hillsborough, BT26 6AR

Doors open at 10:30 and the rally finishes at 13:00. Entrance fee £5.00, including free entry in prize draw. Please hold on to your ticket to participate in the draw

If you would like to book a table at the rally, email rally@lvars.uk

Traders Attending (TBC)

P&D Peter MI0CIB – Radios, Antenna, Cable, Connectors and accessories. (Confirmed)

Billy Goat Stuff Alan GI7GSB – Radio and electronic sundry. (Confirmed)

Dave GI4XIR – Radio and electronic sundry. (Confirmed)

Brian GI4KEQ – Test equipment. (Confirmed)

Harry GI4JTF & Richard GI4DOH – QSL cards. (Confirmed)

Micheal MI0HOZ RSGB – Meet your regional and district representatives. John GI4BWM, RSGB President will also be in attendance.

Eddie Gi7FHZ – RAYNET information stand. (Confirmed)

Bring & Buy – Sell that bit of equipment that has been sitting on the shelf or pick up a bargain.

News and Forthcoming Events Planning 2025

Over 300 Editions of RadCom Available in RSGB Web App

The RSGB recently announced that they have added more RadCom editions to their web app. RSGB members are now able to browse through over 300 editions of RadCom magazines dating back to January 2000. Go to the web app via https://rsgb.org/ to explore the content. You will need RSGB membership to access this content. The RSGB Book shop offers reductions on all books purchased by RSGB members

Ham Radio Ireland 1st Anniversary After Relaunch

Ham Radio Ireland was relaunched by the Collective Communications on the 24th of January 2025. To date the Free Magazine has been downloaded over 40,000 times and its readership spans over 68 countries. To Commemorate our anniversary we will be activating the Magazine's Callsign EI3HRI commencing on the 24th of January. Do give us a call if you her us on the airwaves. We thank all of our authors for their support and interesting articles , We thank all of our readers for their support also,

RSGB News Services

For your weekly fix of GB2RS, from 80m to UHF DMR. Full schedule available from rsgb.org.uk/gb2rsschedule.

09:30 145.5250 FM
10:00 3.6400 LSB
12:00 DMR BM TG2354
19:30 DMR Phoenix TG880

Phoenix Amateur Radio Club Coolmine Rally

SUNDAY

15th of February 2026

Doors open at 10 a.m.

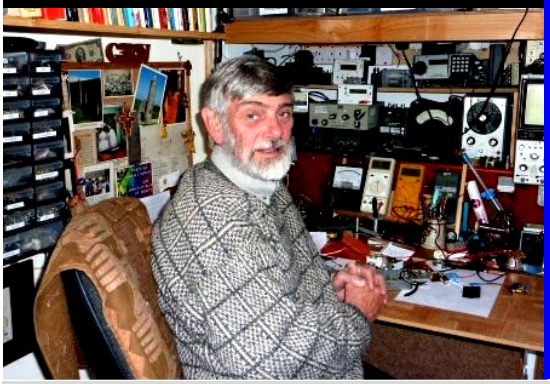
at the usual venue

Coolmine Community School

Dublin

D15 FW97

G QRP CLUB



The G-QRP club was formed by Rev. George Dobbs G3RJV in 1974 to cater for those interested in low power communications after a group used to meet around 3.560MHz. In the year 2000, the club celebrated its 25th birthday and we continue growing year by year.

The club has a quarterly magazine called SPRAT, so called for Small Powered Radio Amateur Transmissions. This magazine is 2/3 full of circuit ideas and 1/3 editorial. Until his passing in 2019 it was edited by George.

It was in September 1974 that George Dobbs G3RJV started the wheels turning to make the G-QRP Club a reality. Fifty years later, the Club is going strong and we have had around four thousand paid up members for over a decade.

Membership is handled by Daphne, G7ENA, GQRP Club, 33 Swallow Drive, Louth, LN11 0DN. Subscription currently stands at €15.00 for EU members.

Carrickfergus Amateur Radio Group

The Club meets every Tuesday evening during normal school term time from 7pm in Elim Pentecostal Church, North Road, Carrickfergus, BT38 8ND. All visitors are welcome. Regular news and updates are provided on the CARG website https://gi0lix.home.blog/ It is expected that the CARG Annual Rally will take place on: Saturday 25th October 2025 in Elim Church, North Road, Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim, BT38 8ND from 11:30 am - the final date to be confirmed (I will advise of the confirmed date in advance).

CARG will participate in the annual International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend (ILLW) on 16th & 17th August 2025 adjacent to Chaine Memorial Tower, Larne, Co. Antrim (WAI: D40, IOTA: EU-115, IO74CU, ARLHS NTI-004 - see the Club website for further details).

Bush Valley Amateur Radio Club

Meets on the last Thursday of each month at 8pm in the Burnfoot Community Centre, 294 Drumane Road, Burnfoot, BT47 4NL. We now have over 20 members, and are a very active club and we hold a number of events throughout the year. Website: bushvalleyarc.org
Enquiries to: Bushvalleyarc@gmail.com

West Tyrone Amateur Radio Club

West Tyrone ARC GN4OMA, has regular monthly meetings Our meetings take place in Order of Malta Hall, Brook Street, Omagh, BT78 1DE on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30 pm. Enquiries to: info@wtarc.org.uk

Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club

Meets at the Share Village, Smith's Strand, Linaskea, Co Fermanagh at 19:30 on the first Monday of each month. More info: https://lougherneradioclub.co.uk

Mid Ulster Amateur Radio Club

The Mid Ulster Amateur Radio Club (MUARC) has been active since 1965, our Club call sign is MN0VFW. Please take time to look through our FB page where you will find information on our club, activities, events and members as well as a great gallery full of images of our latest activities. Mid-Ulster Amateur Radio Club meets on the second Sunday of the month except July/ August in Tandragee Golf Club at 3pm.. We organise field days for St Patricks day, Marconi weekend, 145 Alive, Sota weekend and other events. If you're in the region, and would like to take part, the club secretary can be contacted on the following email address:
Email address: muarc.secretary@yahoo.co.uk

Antrim and District Amateur Radio Society

The Antrim and District Amateur Radio Society meets on the 2nd Friday of each month in the Greystone Community on the Ballycraigy Road, BT41 1PW 7:30 - 9:30pm. For More information: Email secretary@adars.co.uk

Ballymena Amateur Radio Club

The Club meets every Thursday night at 70 Nursery Road, Gracehill, BALLYMENA except during the summer months (June, July and August) when we only officially meet on the first Thursday night of the month, but there are some members there nearly every Thursday night. E-mail: HKernohan@aol.com

City of Belfast Amateur Radio Society

The City of Belfast Amateur Radio Society meets on the first Monday of each month a 8pm in the Shorts RecreationClun, Aircraft Park, Holywood Road, Belfast BT4 1SL. Contact Paul Irwin GI6FEN for more information E-mail: paulirwin@btinteret.com

Northwest Group Amateur Radio Club

The Northwest Group Amateur Radio Club, meets last Tuesday of the month at Shantallow Community Centre, Derry. Contact nwgarc@gmail.com

Bangor and District Amateur Radio Society

The Bangor and District Amateur Radio Society meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Marquis Hall, Abbey St, Bangor BT20 4JE 19:30 for 20:00. We don't meet during July and August. Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/BangorDistrictARS/ Contact GI4JTF for more information.

White Mountain Amateur Radio Club

The White Mountain Amateur Radio club meets at 7a, Sheepwalk Road, Castlerobin, Lisburn on Friday nights for the Amateur Radio Exam Courses, Sundays at 12pm Wednesday nights at 7pm for general radio topics, practical and social evenings. Whether interested in Amateur Radio, CB, PMR 446 or electronics all are welcomed to come along to our meetings. More information from https://wmarc.co.uk/

If your Club, Group or Society is not listed here, please notify us and we will add to the next issue of Ham Radio Ireland

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the team at ML&S

Why not visit the ML&S Hamstore over the Christmas Holiday?

Holiday Opening Times:

24th December 9am-2pm. 25th December Closed. 26th December Closed. 27th December 9am-2pm. 28th December Closed. 29th & 30th December 8:30am-5pm. 31st December 9am-2pm. 1st January Closed. 2nd January 8:30am-5pm.

Hiberling Ultra-premium HF/VHF Transceiver

Hiberling PT-8000A HF/VHF Transceiver handcrafted in Germany to the highest engineering standards..... **£12,999**

Hiberling HPA-8000B 1kW Power Amplifier. 160/80/40/30/20/17/15/12/10/6/4m bands. All-mode: AM/FM/SSB/CW. Internal power supply: 200-260V **£5499.00**

NEW RANGE OF POTA PRODUCTS AVAILABLE NOW AT ML&S

Portable Ham Radio Backpack with Wheels – Fits Yaesu FTX-1, IC-705, FT-710 Field, Xiegu X6200
ML&S Portable Ham Radio Trolley Backpack **£99.95**

Chameleon 34ft (10.5m) Portable Carbon Fibre Mast
Lightweight. Stealthy. Self-supporting. Built for the field. **£169.96**

Chelegance JMount-01
1/4" Tripod Antenna Bracket with SO239 Mast Clamp. **£28.96**

Windcamp Pota/Sota Radio Case
Designed specifically for portable operations, this case ensures that your radio gear is safeguarded against the elements while remaining lightweight and easy to carry. **£65.99**

CHA FSR — Faraday Strip Radial System
Designed for serious operators, the CHA FSR delivers superior performance while remaining compact and easy to transport. **£138.95**

MICRO POTA EFHW 49:1 Kit with 25m of dipoflex available in SO and BNC
Discover the versatility and efficiency of the POTA EFHW 49:1 Kit, designed for amateur radio enthusiasts seeking reliable performance. This comprehensive kit includes a MICRO with two connector options, ensuring seamless connectivity and ease of use in various setups. With 25 metres of high-quality dipoflex cable, this kit provides excellent flexibility and durability for outdoor operations.This kit will allow you to make a 20m EFHW. **£69.95**

ML&S RANGE OF LINEAR AMPLIFIERS

ACOM 1400S

Solid-State 1.8-54 MHz Linear Amplifier £3325.00

The ACOM 1400S is a state-of-the-art amplifier covering all amateur bands from 1.8 to 54MHz. It comes with a new compact Touch-Screen Remote Control Unit. The proven ACOM 06AT tuner is the optimal option for use with ACOM 1400S. Both devices share the same front panel design and will look magnificent in your shack. ACOM 1400S amplifier is based on the latest LDMOS transistor technology. The final PA stage uses a rugged 65 V LDMOS transistor for heavy operation modes. The amplifier as standard is equipped with an Ethernet interface and thus can be remotely controlled via the Internet through the integrated Web interface.

Acom 500S

500W 160m-4m 500W Linear Amplifier IN STOCK

The ACOM 500S is a state-of-the art linear power amplifier that covers all amateur bands from 1.8 through 70.5MHz and provides 500W rated output power (PEP or digital) **£2499.95**

New **Acom 1003** HF + 6m Linear Amplifier	**£2749.99**
Acom 2100 1.8-54MHz Linear Amplifier	**£3599.05**
Acom 2020S 1.5kW 160m-6m Solid-state.	**£7039.96**
Acom 1010 160-10m Linear Amplifier	**£2089.99**
Acom 1000 1kW 1kW PEP/CW 1.8-55MHz	**£2699.95**
Acom 2000A 1500-2kW output auto with 2x4CX800A	**£5609.95**
Acom 700S 700 Watts PEP or Carrier output	**£2649.95**
Acom 1200S Same as 700S but with 1kW output	**£2949.95**
Acom 1500 HF+6m Linear Amplifier	**£3199.95**
Acom 06AT Automatic Antenna Tuner & Switch	**£1079.95**

SPE Expert 1.5K-FA Taurus
Solid-state linear amplifier at the forefront of RF engineering. It provides a solid 1.5kW of output with exceptional linearity, efficiency, and robustness. Integrated with a built-in power supply and a highly capable automatic antenna tuner..... **£4499.95**

SPE Expert 1.3K-FA with ATU	**£3699.95**
SPE Expert 1.3K-FA without ATU	**£2915.99**
SPE Expert 1.5K	**£3999**

Nissei Power Meters & PSUs

Nissei DG-103 MAX
Digital Display SWR/Power Meter.This digital SWR & Watt meter is highly accurate for measuring Forward Power,Reflected Power, & VSWR..... **£129.95**

DG-503Max Digital Power Meter	**Only £139.00**
DG-503 Digital Power Meter	**Only £99.00**
NS-2230D 30Amp PSU, Front Power Pole Connectors	**£84.95**

MyDEL Nissei Compact in-line meters

RS-50: £65.95. RS-70: £69.00 The RS-50 (120W 2m & 70cm) & 70 (200W 160m-6m) are compact in-line meters that present power and SWR on a digital backlit LCD display.

Lido In-Car Mounting Kits

Lido Cup Holder Mount. £31.20
This is just one example of the many available in store.
See web for our full selection

HackRF Pro SDR Platform: A Next-Gen Open-Source Transceiver

The latest offering from Great Scott Gadgets, the **HackRF Pro**, delivers impressive performance in a compact package. Covering **100kHz to 6GHz** with transmit and receive capability, it is a versatile and open-source platform designed for serious radio experimentation.
Coming soon for only £312.00
Pre-order on our website, see HamRadio.co.uk/hackrfpro

Anytone AT-588

4m Transceiver 70MHz.

£149.99

Anytone AT-6666Pro

10m Mobile Transceiver AM FM SSB 10m Radio 28-29.700MHz 80W.

£204.95
Special Price

Point your camera to this, the only QR Code for Ham Radio you'll ever need, it takes you directly to our web site!

Visit HamRadio.co.uk for full specifications or call the team on 0345 2300 599

Hear those weak signals with bhi DSP noise cancelling products designed and built in Great Britain.

NES10-2MK4
New NES10-2MK4 amplified DSP noise cancelling speaker. **£128.95**

Dual In-Line
Dual channel amplified DSP noise eliminating module. **£189.95**

DESKTOP MKII
Amplified DSP base station speaker – 10 Watts audio. **£239.95**

NEDSP1901-KBD Pre-wired low level retrofit audio DSP noise cancelling module. This module replaces the popular NEDS01061-KBD that many Yaesu FT817/FT-818 users have installed over the last 18 years. .. **£129.95**

Compact In-Line Compact DSP noise cancelling module with improved DSP algorithm giving even better noise elimination. **£170.00**

ParaPro EQ20-DSP 20W Audio Enhancer	**£329.95**
ParaPro EQ20B-DSP 20W Audio Enhancer (Bluetooth version)	**£399.95**
BHi NCH Active noise cancelling headphones	**£29.95**
BHi HP-1 BHi Wired stereo communications headphones	**£19.99**

ZUMSPOT Mini 2.4" OLED LCD Pi Zero 2

Single band UHF Modem, Raspberry Pi Zero 2 depending on availability), 2 part ZUMcase, SD Card loaded with Pi-Star ready for you to configure, use with your compatible digital radio. **£178.00**

Power Supplies

Samlex SEC-1235P-M Desktop Switching Power Supply
The Samlex SEC-1235P-M is destined to become THE premier lightweight 13.8 VDC desktop power supply, offering updated features and upgraded performance and ratings..... **£179.96**

Samlex SEC-1235G 30 Amp Switch Mode Power Supply

This highly efficient AC-DC power converter provides a highly regulated output DC voltage of 13.8 Volts at 30 Amps with an AC input of 230 Volts, 50Hz. **£127.96**

MyDEL **Two-year warranty on all MyDEL PSUs**

MyDEL PS-30SWVI (PS-30)

A high power DC regulated Switch Mode power supply, providing up to 30amp maximum current.Comes with Over Voltage, Current Limiting and Short Circuit Protection. **£79.00**

MyDEL MP-50SWIV
Super Lightweight Metered PSU 48-50 Amp, 9-15V DC power supply **£139.99**

MyDel 30A Linear Power Supply

The **1830SC** is a high-quality 30A linear power supply designed to provide reliable and stable DC power for a variety of radio communication and electronic applications..... **£109.99**

Pro Audio Engineering Kx33

Low-RFI AC Power Supply for HF Transceivers Small, light, easily portable high-power DC supply which has low AC input to DC output coupling. This is critical to minimise RFI due to common-mode currents often found with temporary antennas such as end-feds or verticals. **£69.95**

New MyDEL Battery for Mobile Operation

12V 50Ah LiFePO4 Lithium Battery... **£136.00**

10A Charger for above **£64.99**

Shackmaster Power 600

Rig Expert 13.8V/40A Power Supply.

Compact Desktop Power Supply sets the new standard for high quality.....**£399.00**

13ft/400cm Air Cushioned TRIPOD

Air Cushioned Light Stand- Integrated with the air cushion to protect your device from abrupt drops.
Optimum supporting tool for heavy photography softboxes, strobe lights and Bowens video lights **£95.00**

Heil Sound

ML&S are the official UK importer for Heil Sound headphones and microphones

Pro-Set 7 Headphones	**From £246.00**
Pro-Set IC Headphones	**£157.96**
Pro-Set Elite 6 Headphones	**£179.95**
Pro-Set Elite IC Headphones	**£189.95**
Pro-Set 3 Headphones	**£127.00**
NEW PR-77D Microphone	**£171.95**
PR-781 Microphone	**From £199.95**
PR-40 Microphone	**From £277.99**

Red Pitaya SDRlab 122-16 External Clock Starter kit

Professional-grade SDR digitiser and processing platform, tailored for serious experimenters, RF engineers, and advanced amateur radio operators.
The SDRlab 122-16 External Clock is based on Red Pitaya's high-performance SDRlab platform, modified for use with an external oscillator connected via the E2 extension port. This flexibility allows integration with GPSDOs, rubidium standards, or other precision clock sources required in demanding RF environments. **£695.00**

Shack Clock
Special Offer £19.99

New Bits & Bobs! See Web for info.

EFHW KIT 200W 49:1 Unun for making your own end-fed half wave antenna.	**£85.00**
SDR Port Switch 0-70MHz 100W RXin RXout	**£202.96**
Aziloop DF-72 Antenna System	**£625.00**
Triple base magnetic mag mount SO 239	**£45.95**

Novice Amateur Radio Licence

Scan the QR code with your phone or visit www.change.org/noviceireland to sign the petition.

As an avid ham radio operator, I've had the incredible experience of connecting with people across the globe, sharing knowledge, and fostering a unique sense of community. Yet, despite all its benefits, the path to becoming an amateur radio enthusiast in Ireland faces hurdles due to the lack of a novice licence.

A novice amateur licence caters to beginners by allowing newcomers, particularly young individuals, to easily access and explore the amateur radio community. Countries like the UK, Australia, and the US have already recognised the value of these entry-level licences, providing a simpler route to involvement and education in amateur radio.

Ireland must take action to encourage our budding radio operators and harness their potential. By urging ComReg to introduce a novice amateur radio licence, we can make ham radio more accessible and inviting for the younger generation. This licence would lower examination barriers and offer a streamlined approach to gaining essential skills and knowledge.

The introduction of an entry-level licence can significantly boost participation and promote innovation and technological literacy among the youth. It aligns with global trends encouraging STEM education and inspires future generations to explore engineering, communication, and technology fields.

Please join me in this endeavour to pave the way for young aspiring ham radio operators in Ireland. By taking action together, we can petition ComReg to set the stage for a thriving amateur radio community.

Sign this petition to signal your support for the creation of a novice amateur radio licence in Ireland. Liam EI7GTB

Merry Christmas

To all our
Ham Radio Ireland
Readers

Thank you for supporting
the Magazine

Now with 40,000
Downloads in 2025

Microwave Activity in Co. Mayo

Our year kicked off New year's night 2025 activating a SOTA, Croagh Patrick EI/IW-005. Contacts on 50MHz, 70MHz, 145MHz & 433MHz + four contacts using DV (C4FM).

On the 31st of May 2025 EI3IX/P & EI7FAB/P had the first EI 5.7GHz SOTA summit to summit contact, Croaghmoyle EI/IW-040 to Slieve Carn EI/IN-082 over a distance of 23.7Km, 5/9+30 both ways.

On 16th of June 2025 members of the Mayo VHF Group commemorated the eight members of RAF 202 Sqn. Flight registration number RG843 who lost their lives when their aircraft crashed in very thick fog into Croaghan mountain in Achill, Co. Mayo using the call sign **EI75RAF**. On the 16th of June 1950 the aircraft a Handley Page Halifax Met6 was conducting a BISMUTH meteorological survey on the west coast of Ireland and was returning to base at RAF Aldergrove, Belfast in Northern Ireland when disaster struck. All eight crew members were killed.

On the Lighthouse Weekend 16th/17th of August our Group activated Ballyglass/Broadhaven Lighthouse ILLW No: EI0006, WAI square F73, Maidenhead grid locator IO54bg using the call sign **EI0LGT**.

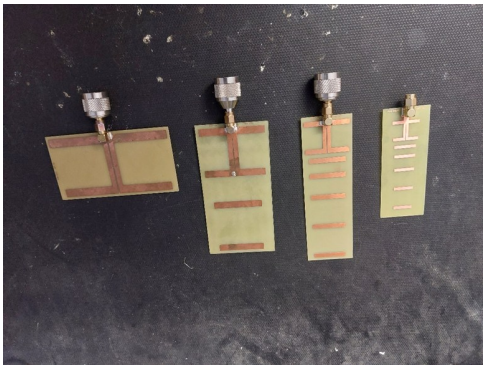
So far this year, our Group has activated a total of 48 SOTA summits across EI/MI, activations mainly used VHF, UHF and microwave bands 1296MHz, 2320MHz, 5760MHz & 10368MHz. SOTA proved to be a fantastic means to test paths especially on the microwave bands with some very interesting results and anomalies.

10GHz operating from Minaun, Achill EI/IW-035

SG Lab 5.7GHz transverter on Croghmoyle EI/IW-040

Digital Voice DMR, C4FM & DSTAR simplex also has a following, all 3 modes were used throughout the year on SOTA and during long distance point to point experiments between Mayo and Kerry operators.

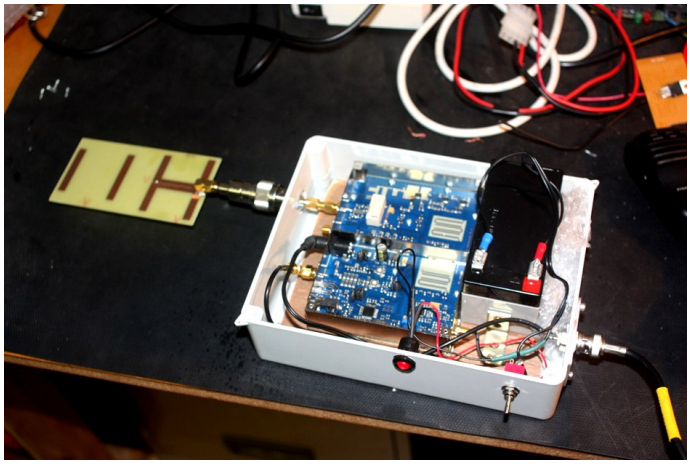
For our SOTA microwave activities SG Lab transverters were a life saver weight wise! extremely well built and compact, apart from a small



SG Lab Transverter PCB Yagis

Microwave Activity in Co. Mayo

tweak on the TX & RX pots inside the transverter they are basically plug and play and even come with a small PCB Yagi (7dbi).

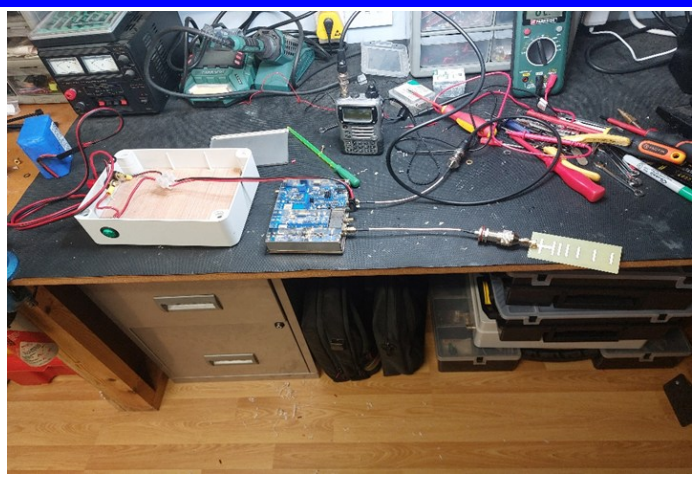


SG Lab 13cm transverter project with battery

Due to the wet Irish weather, its very important that transverters are housed in a suitable waterproof enclosure such as the Gewiss GW 44-207 (IP56 rated). All the bulkhead fittings etc. are easily purchased online.

Transverters are then powered by an external Eremit LiFePo4 12.8V 4Ah battery, the relevant IF is supplied by a Yaesu VX 7 handheld using 1w or a Yaesu FT817 if SSB is required. Transverter output is 2w approx. On the hills its mainly the PCB Yagis that are used, on occasions light weight long Yagi's or panels are brought along for longer distance experiments.

Eremit LiFePo4 battery, light-weight, very suitable for SOTA activities



Bench testing SG Lab Transverter

There are currently 6 operators active on 1296MHz in the Mayo area, 3 on 2320MHz & 2 on 5760MHz/10368MHz.

The 10GHz transverters are by Downeast Microwave, power output 2.8w into Procom 48cm dishes and feeds, external TCXO required. It is the only transverter that can't be brought out back packing due to the weight, only drive on sites for this band.

There is also an interest in getting our 5.6GHz ATV units back on air using the FPV platform. A few members have also purchased 1240MHz ATV modules, hopefully we should have SOTA ATV in 2026

Joe Faden EI3IX

joe_fadden@yahoo.com

Adam's Journey

Keep an eye out in the first 2026 edition of Ham Radio Ireland magazine where we will have a full update on Adam Sweeney from Dunmore East Waterford. Adam will attempt to climb Everest in the April climbing season; he has been very busy training and getting the body ready for his assent and in doing so he will be the youngest Irishman to have made the summit if all goes well. The February edition will have a full report on progress and preparation.

Activating the Four Metre Band

The Four metre band was always referred to as the "Gentleman's Band" due to the relatively small community of operators who were on first name terms with one another. These were real radio experimenters as they either built their own equipment or modified existing ex-commercial equipment.

Until recently the Four metre band was not hugely popular in Ireland mainly because there were very few commercial black boxes and it was "just another VHF Band". For the more serious and dedicated operators, there was the option of a transverter, allowing SSB, AM, and FM operation, and, for general and mobile use, many would delve into the innards of Low Band ex-commercial equipment and align it onto the Four metre band.

Low Band Pye Cambridge, Westminsters, ASCOM SE -550, Phillips FM-1000 and Kyodo ex-commercial radios were easy to get up and running for Four metres. Garex AKD-4001 was the only Four metre FM radio produced specifically for the amateur radio market many years ago. Twiddling with radios on the bench is primarily what we do, as radio amateurs, because it is part of the Hobby and is cost effective.

Pye Westminster, Pye Cambridge and Ascom SE-550

In Ireland, the Communications Regulator, ComReg issued a wide block of spectrum from 30 MHz - 70.500 MHz with a two small blocks missing. For the 4 metre operator. Many commercial produced transceivers can operate from 66.000 MHz - 70.500MHz. It would even be possible to set up a repeater within this allocation.

54.000- 69.900	Secondary	50W (17 dBW) P.E.P	
69.900-70.500	Secondary	50W (17 dBW) P.E.P Fixed Operation Only	For Mobile Operation Max Power is 25W (14 dBW) P.E.P

The 4 metre band allocation in Ireland

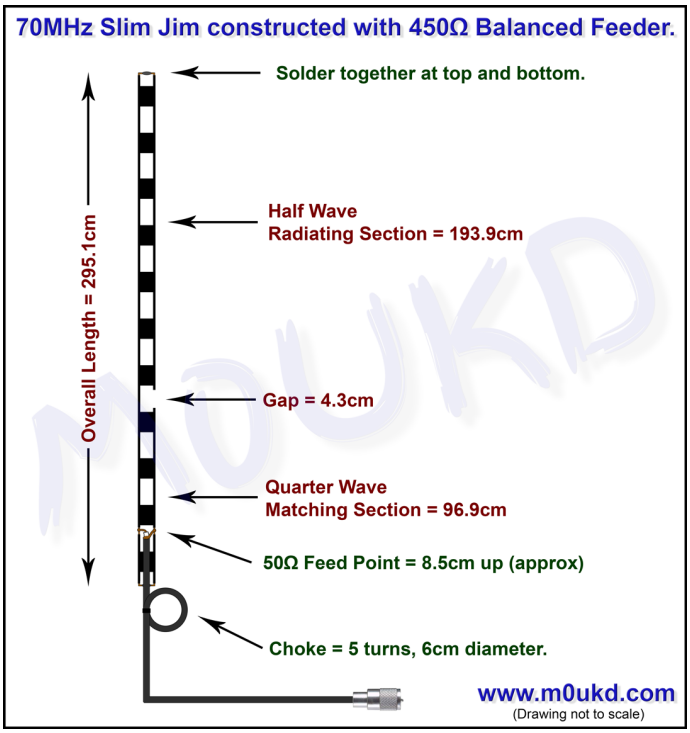
More Region 1 countries have allowed operation on the Four metre band although the actual band allocation varies in some countries. As a result of this, the amateur radio manufacturers have offered radios which include the Four metre band. Anytone, Wouxun and Retevis have produced some dedicated Four metre mobile transceivers which perform admirably on the 4-metre band, and all can be purchased from Martin Lynch and Sons. There are now Handheld radios available for the Amateur market operating on the Four Metre band.

Anytone AT-588

In the last few years many of the HF Transceivers include Four metres in addition to Six metres. The ICOM 7100 was always an excellent radio as it covers HF to 70cms and included the Four metre band. The ICOM IC-7100 offers the facility of CW, AM, FM, SSB and D-Star.

For mobile operation, the ¼ wave whip is the most practical antenna and for the home QTH there are a variety of vertical or beam antennas to choose from.

If you wish to try out the 4-Metre band for the first time, the Slim Jim antenna would be a cheap and effective way to get on the air. It is as easy to produce a portable or base Slim Jim antenna from 450-ohm ribbon cable using measurements from the M0UKD calculator to get started. This antenna will give excellent results. A variety of beam antennas are available for those with DX in mind. Even the homemade Slim Jim antenna will give surprising results when there is a good Sporadic E opening..



For more specialised DX operation, there is a variety beam antennas available from many manufacturers allowing one to take full advantage of enhanced tropospheric and ionospheric propagation.

Propagation on 4 metres can occur at unexpected times which means that if you are monitoring the right frequency, such as a calling channel or known Dx frequency, you might receive an unexpected brief QSO..

In the West of Ireland an operator was surprised to hear a Dutch station on his KV-UV8G Handheld during a Sporadic E opening. He promptly called the station back and succeeded in a two-way exchange of details on the high-power setting using the Rubber Duck antenna. Band

Activating the Four Metre Band

conditions can change in an instant, so it is advisable to monitor the band even outside of predicted events. You could put out a call in the wee hours of the morning and get an unexpected reply from Europe.

The Propagation characteristics of the Four metre band makes mobile operation more interesting as the distance covered is generally superior to Two metres. Auroral, Sporadic E and Tropospheric Propagation often result in some vast DX openings.

Normally Sporadic E season is noticeable from the end of April until the end of August. Recently there have been strong openings around 9 am Local time. Moving into the Summer Sporadic E is most noticeable around 5pm.

Dick Madigan's strong CW signal was regularly heard in London on summer evenings. In Ireland this would have coincided with the appearance of Spanish TV frequently received on RTE 1's channel when it operated close to 50Mhz. Aircraft scatter is particularly noticeable on this band with sharp rise and falls of signal strength. My home QTH was in the South-East of London along the flight path to Heathrow so this was noticeable almost every day. Strong signals north of London used to appear out of the noise as aircraft appeared in the vicinity.

Frequency	Maximum Bandwidth	Mode	Usage
70.000 70.090	1 000 Hz	Telegraphy MGM	Coordinated Beacons
70.090 70.100	1 000 Hz	Beacons	Temporary and personal beacons 70.091 Personal WSPR beacons
70.100 70.250	2 700 Hz	Telegraphy SSB MGM	70.185 Crossband center of activity 70.200 Telegraphy/SSB calling 70.250 MS calling
70.250 70.294	12 kHz	AM / FM	70.260 AM/FM calling 70.270 MGM centre aof activity
70.294 70.500	12 kHz	FM Channels 12.5 kHz spacing	70.3125 digital communications 70.3250 digital communications 70.4500 FM calling 70.4625 70.4750 70.4875 digital communications

Please see the IARU Region 1 VHF Handbook for details

IARU Region 1 4 Metre Bandplan

Four Metres will produce good DX via tropospheric propagation. Base to mobile operation can give surprising results under such conditions.

Four metres is particularly well suited to meteor scatter where the signal is reflected of the trails of ionisation as the meteor burns up in the atmosphere. These lower end VHF signals require a lower electron density to be reflected. As the trail diffuses and the density drops, the lower frequency signal can continue to reflect for a longer period because the trail stays "over dense" for that specific wavelength for a longer time The Perseids meteor shower, peaking around the 12 – 13th of August, will give impressive results due to the high number of meteors entering the earth's atmosphere.

Wouxun kg-uv8g 2m and 4m 144,70mhz handheld transceiver

Mobile tests were conducted on many bands, by members of the Galway VHF group especially in Connemara which has a very rugged and mountainous terrain. Surprisingly, as VHF Bands go, the Four metre band gave the best signal strengths over defined distances. Four metres managed to circumvent many obstacles. It was concluded that the Four metre band would always give better results whilst mobile in most areas, even in Connemara. The East Leinster Amateur Radio Club have used the Four metre band extensively for many of their operations and can verify these results.

Tests over a given path from Salthill, 3 metres Above Sea level, to Headford, 25 miles away, found a greater signal strength for a given power level over a fixed path on Four metres vs Two metres – not surprising as the wavelength is longer. There was always a flutter effect noted over the path grom Galway to Headford and it could only be down to reflections from traffic on the motorway which is on higher ground. Another advantage is that there is less likelihood of mobile flutter or dropouts during mobile operation.

There is Four metre Allstar Gateway in Galway which gives surprising coverage from a sea level site under normal conditions. The gateway was set up on the UK HubNet giving plenty of activity and an opportunity to do range tests.

If you have Four metres on your Yaesu or ICOM HF radio, give it a try. A simple horizontal wire dipole or vertical Slim Jim antenna would be adequate for experimental purposes and if you are lucky enough to experience enhanced propagation the bug will bite.

Steve Wright - EI5DD
wright14@gmail.com

The Evolution of the EI3CC Radio Control Unit (RCU)

We are constantly asked about our RCU (Radio Control Unit) - where did we get it? What was the condition like when we got it etc? Throughout 2026 we will cover the evolution of the RCU from when we picked it up to were it is today, hopefully it may inspire other clubs or groups to consider an RCU or maybe assist with a possible build and give some ideas and design as to what to include into your project. We will cover the major work needed on to make it roadworthy, this included making a new front axle floors, ceiling issue and so on.

We wanted the RCU to be fully independent and by that we mean that we didn't need to rely on mains power , so a full solar system was fitted and the solar installation will be covered in full too.

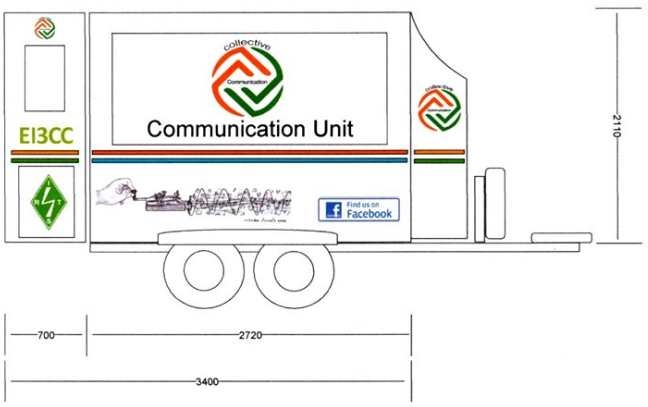
We wanted the RCU to be fully independent and by that we mean that we didn't need to rely on mains power , so a full solar system was fitted and that installation will be covered in full too.

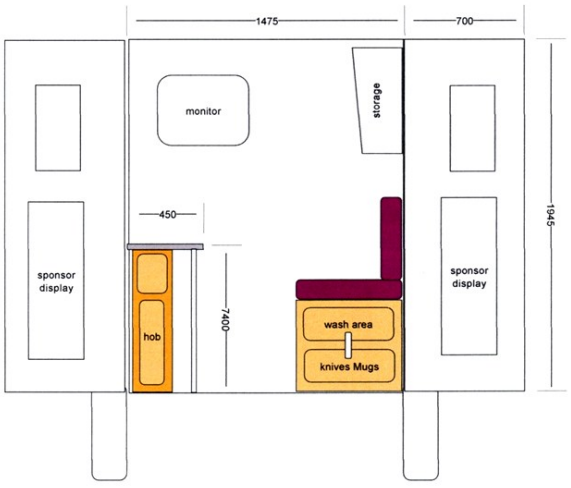
Wayne EI7HKB and David EI6GVB working on the solar system

Long before this unit was came into our possession, we always had a plan to build one, I had acquired a caravan chassis and I had spent about six months designing and modifying drawings I had put together. This is crucial to any project you undertake as you can get some idea of how your project will turn out and also modify the drawings before the expense of cutting timber etc.

A sleeping arrangement had to be part of the internal fixtures again this would be useful if the unit was out there was it provided a sleeping area thus the RCU being fully independent.

The desk area will allow the running of six radio's anain in the design all wiring, coax power cables would have to be out of view and less of a risk for anyone pulling a radio of the bench. Three areas on the bench radio area would have twin N type connectors and a number of power pole connectors at different amps also each would have an





independent supply so in the event of a short only that area would go down, Wayne EI7HKB would be in charge of all the wiring.
Another feature was to have a fixed Clarke pump up mast. We will go into detail of its installation on the RCU.

To make this a fully independent unit we included a fully operational kitchen for the tea/coffee and even to cook the breakfast if needed and opposite that storage and washing equipment.

The Evolution of the EI3CC Radio Control Unit (RCU)

RCU with Clark Mast fitted

Cooking facilities fold neatly under the operating desk

Space was to be used to a premium and with that in mind tubing could be carried and a selection of storage areas with all types of cable rope coax also cases with connectors, paperwork flags would need to be considered too so as you will see as the build progresses how we went on to archive all the ideas on our requirement list.

2026 will be the year of the RCU watch this space and watch how the project developed as a group project and also sponsorship from eighteen companies or individuals.

Radio Fraternity Lodge 8040 - 60th Anniversary

Amateur Radio, like Freemasonry, is a universal hobby and the Radio Fraternity Lodge No. 8040 was one of the earliest 'Special Interest' Lodges to be formed for licenced radio amateurs (or as we are known today 'Radio Hams') who have an interest in Freemasonry and radio communication. Our Lodge number 8040 represents the eighty and forty-meter shortwave radio bands that radio amateurs use to maintain countrywide (and world-wide) radio communication with each other.

Although we are a Metropolitan Lodge meeting at Great Queens Street in London, we regard ourselves as a 'National' lodge', having members and visitors attending meetings from many parts of the United Kingdom and from overseas.

Distinguished Founder John Clarricoats OBE (Call Sign G6CL)

The Radio Fraternity Lodge No. 8040 was Consecrated on Tuesday 23rd November 1965. Many famous Amateur Radio Station Call signs formed the bedrock of the Lodge and we, of the present generation, have come to regard their legacy with pride and affection. The beginnings were closely linked with the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) and the London Members Luncheon Club to which many of the famous Call signs were active officers and members.

The proposed Fraternity of Radio Amateurs was thought to be, at that time, the first in the World. The idea of a Lodge for radio amateurs first took root in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, but it was not until 1962 that the project was resurrected, and Radio Fraternity Lodge No. 8040 was consecrated at Freemasons' Hall, London, in 1965 – some twenty years after the idea was first put forward.

Lodge history recalls:

'A strong reason made to the committee for establishing the new Lodge was that there did not exist, as far as was known then, any such fraternity in the world comprising radio amateurs. London received many foreign radio amateur visitors, some of whom are Masons, to whom they could extend the inviting hand of friendship'.

Among its distinguished Founders was John Clarricoats OBE (Call Sign G6CL), who had been full-time secretary of the Radio Society of Great Britain for thirty-two years until his retirement in 1963. He was both the first Master of the Lodge and subsequently its secretary. As a mark of prestige John was awarded with a special Past Master Jewel made of precious metals to commemorate him being the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

The Clarricotes Jewel

Clarricoats Jewel

In recent years this jewel had gone missing presumed lost, but has recently been presented back to the Lodge by W. Bro. Frank Byrne. The jewel was found amongst the personal effects of the late W. Bro J.A. Blundell, G3DBM, who was master of the Radio Fraternity Lodge in 1994. The members of the Radio Fraternity Lodge thank W. Bro Frank for his generous gift of the Primus Past Master's jewel that will be treasured by all members of the Lodge.

Universal Hobbies for All

As with Freemasonry, amateur radio is a popular technical hobby that uses designated radio frequencies for non-commercial exchange of messages, wireless experimentation, self-training, and emergency communications. It is the only hobby governed by international treaty. As a radio amateur you are able to transmit radio signals on a number of radio frequency bands allocated specifically to the radio amateurs globally. There is no better way to explore the fascinating world of wireless communication than by becoming a radio amateur. People of all ages and backgrounds get into amateur radio. Whether you're experienced in software, have an interest in electronics or coding, enjoy constructing or are looking for a sociable hobby, amateur radio has something for you.

There are many ways to enjoy amateur radio, whatever your age, skills and interests. Amateur radio offers you the opportunity to experiment with wireless communications technology. There's always the chance to learn something new and challenge yourself. You don't need to spend much on equipment (unless you want to!).

A typical amateur radio station

Radio amateurs identify themselves using unique call signs. There is no status on the air and everyone you contact is an equal, whatever their level of experience.

Radio amateurs make use of their frequencies in a number of ways: Contacting people all over the world by radio which often leads to developing international friendships. For technical experimentation, note that many of the leaps forward in radio technology have been initiated by radio amateurs.

Competing in international competitions to test how effective their equipment is, and how good they are as an operator. We can communicate through amateur space satellites or even with the International Space Station (which carries an amateur radio station).

Radio Fraternity Lodge 8040 - 60th Anniversary

Radio amateurs also provide a crucial communication tool during disasters when conventional communications systems are damaged or unavailable due to hurricanes, earthquakes, by supporting government and international aid agencies.

The Only Lodge with a Call Sign - G5RFL

Since the consecration of the Lodge members have maintained a weekly communications 'net' every Sunday morning at 9am on the 80-metre band (3.757kHz) or on the 40-metre band (7157kHz). This 9 o'clock net is controlled by the Lodge Master during his year of office using the Lodge Call sign G5RFL, (RFL standing for Radio Fraternity Lodge). This regular link provides the Almoner with up-to-date information about anyone who is unwell or otherwise in need of help. It has also been a golden rule that Freemasonry is not discussed over the air, and new members are told that the Lodge is not a radio club.

Sixtieth Anniversary Meeting

On Monday 1st December the Radio Fraternity Lodge celebrated its sixtieth anniversary and for this special meeting we replaced the Master and wardens' gavels with morse (code) keys and sounders.

During 1946 /1947 the feasibility of forming a Lodge for Radio Amateurs was discussed by John Clarricoats G6CL and Stanley Vanstone G2AYC with the name of the Lodge being suggested by Reg Hammans (who became President of the RSGB in 1956), unfortunately progress could not be made at that time due to business and professional commitments, so idea was put aside.

In 1962 the idea of a radio Lodge was broached again when at one of the London Members Luncheon Club monthly meetings, John Savage G3MSS approached John Clarricoats and Stanley Vanstone to establish whether their commitments had sufficiently change to consider re-activating the proposal for a Lodge for Radio Amateurs, sadly Stanley Vanstone died during 1963.

In December 1963 John Clarricoats (then General Secretary of the RSGB) and John Savage progressed the idea and a letter was forwarded to other Freemasons who were radio amateurs, this led to the first formal Founders meeting on the 22nd April 1964 at the Royal Aero Club in Berkeley Square.

During March and April 1964, the Radio Fraternity Badge was the subject of correspondence between John Clarricoats, John Savage and Eric Martin G6MN. The design was eventually put forward for approval. The badge, encompassing the masonic symbols of the Square and Compasses and the universal amateur radio symbol of the antenna, capacitor and earth enclosed in a diamond (this symbol can be described in Masonic terms as: the antenna can be likened to an acacia bush, the capacitor represents a coffin and the earth symbol is self-explanatory). These symbols combined with the pillars that represent the entrance or porchway. The final design that we see today was approved by Grand Lodge and became the badge for Lodge Jewels and pins

Lodge 8040 Lapel Badge

A petition was submitted to Grand Lodge on the 9th June 1965 and the formation of the Radio Fraternity Lodge was approved on the 9th June 1965. Permission was later given for the Callsigns of each member to be shown on the Summons.

The Lodge was Consecrated on Tuesday 23rd November 1965 in Freemasons' Hall with attending Brethren from all over the country (a national Lodge indeed!). W. Bro John Clarricoats G6CL was installed as the first Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

The fees were as follows:

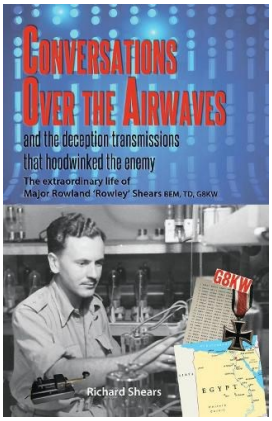
- Member annual Fee £7.7.0 (or seven guineas)
- Initiation Fee £21.0.0
- Joining Members Fee £10.0.0
- Visitors Dining Fee £1.15.0
- Members Non-Dining Annual Fee £3.3.0

On the 8th February 1966 the Lodges first candidate for Initiation was Mr. FW Fletcher G2FUX, proposed by John Savage and Seconded by John Clarricoats and the first joining member was Bro. AE Mitchell G8DF, proposed by John Clarricoats and Seconded by Bro L. Cooper.

The meeting on the 8th April was dedicated to W. Bro John Clarricoats OBE LGR who died on the 7th March.

In the early year the Radio fraternity Lodge meet in various locations:

- February 1966 - The Kinsley Hotel, Bloomsbury Way
- April 1972 - The Angus Steak House, Regent Street
- April 1979 - Great Eastern Hotel, Liverpool Street
- December 1979 - London Masonic Centre, Clerkenwell Green
- April 1981 – Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street.



Notable Members of the Lodge

Bro. Major Rowland (Rowley) George Shears BEM TD (G8KW)

Initiated in 1966, Bro. Major Rowland (Rowley) George Shears BEM TD (G8KW), and founder of KW Electronics Ltd. Rowley was born in 1919 in New Barnet in London, he was Educated at Barnet

Radio Fraternity Lodge 8040 - 60th Anniversary

Technical grammar school, his hobby being Amateur radio (BRS 1904) and became licensed as G8KW in 1935.

In 1938 he joined the local Royal Signals Territorial army unit and was mobilised in 1939. His first posting was as a Morse code instructor (25wpm) at Royal Signals depot Chiswick in London.

In August 1940 he was posted to North Africa where he was involved in providing communications to the 8th Army in the early desert battles, but by the summer of 1941 he was back in Cairo working at Polygon radio (Empire Broadcasting service- call sign JCJC). In June/July 1941 he picked up German military radio traffic (Operation Barbarossa in Russia) and reported this to High Command. It was immediately noted that here was a young man with a very good grasp of radio!

1941-1945 Initially recruited by Army intelligence (SIME) to mimic the Morse 'fist' of turned German agents in order to disseminate false information, later, as Sergeant Shears, he became a member of "A" force (the Allied department responsible for deceiving the enemy) where he assumed the identity of a fictitious German agent in Cairo. His Abwehr controller later informed Rowley of the award of the Iron Cross for his work but sadly he never received it! Mentioned in Dispatches in1943 he was awarded the BEM "for distinguished service" then awarded field commission as 2nd Lt.

In May 1945 Rowley was repatriated to the UK and then posted to the British Army of the Rhine as a Captain to help re-establish MW public broadcasting (including Langenburg radio on 904 kHz). Rowley was also the communications officer on the first train allowed into Berlin following the end of the Soviet blockade and in May 1947 he was instrumental in the re-establishment of the West German Amateur Radio Service for which the new DARC awarded him membership No. 1 with the call sign D2KW.

In January 1956 Rowley set up the KW Electronics Company with Ken Ellis (G5KW) an old army friend from his Middle East days. Over the next 18 years the company prospered and went on to manufacture a range of HF/SSB radios for both the amateur and commercial markets including the much loved KW2000 transceiver.

Sadly on 11th November 2009 Rowley Shears G8KW became SK aged 90 years.

W. Bro Wing. Cmdr. Royce Clifford Wilkinson OBE, DFM & Bar, Croix de Geurre, G4HW.

26th February 1990 the meeting was dedicated to the late W. Bro Wing. Cmdr. Royce Clifford Wilkinson OBE, DFM & Bar, Croix de Geurre, G4HW (a distinguished WW2 RAF Spitfire pilot).

Royce joined the RAF at Halton in January 1930 as an Aircraft Apprentice and passed out in December 1932 as a Fitter. In 1936 he applied for pilot training , he began the flying course in July, as an Airman u/t Pilot. After passing out he joined 3 Squadron at Kenley in May 1937.

On 10th May 1940 the squadron went to France, attached to 63 Wing. Wilkinson shared in destroying a Henschel Hs 126 on the 12th, destroyed a Heinkel He 111 and another Hs126 on the 13th, two Me109s on the14th, a Me110 on the 16th, two He111s on the 19th and he shared in the destruction of two He111s on the 20th. The squadron withdrew back to Kenley on the same day. For his actions Wilkinson received the double award of DFM and Bar on the 31st May 1940.

Whilst he was in France, and he was appointed 'A' Flight Commander, with the rank of Acting Flight Lieutenant. On 21st October 1940 he was posted to the newly-formed 71 (Eagle) Squadron at Church Fenton as 'B' Flight Commander. Wilkinson went to Kirton-in-Lindsey on 14th May 1941 to join 121 (Eagle) Squadron, as a Flight Commander.

He was posted away on 3rd March 1942 to form and command 174 Squadron at Manston, which he did until 3rd May, when he was shot down in Hurricane IIc BE674 by flak during an attack on Abbeville airfield and baled out at a very low level.

With the aid of a French woman, Madame Duhamel, he evaded capture, eventually reached Marseilles and crossed into Spain. Wilkinson flew back to England in a Sunderland from Gibraltar.

He commanded No. 1 Squadron at Acklington and Biggin Hill from 1st August 1942 to 30th May 1943, when he was appointed to lead the Gravesend Wing. In March 1944 he was given command of HQ 149 Airfield, in 11 Group. In August 1944 Wilkinson was sent to Australia on special duties. After return to the UK he went to a staff appointment at the Air Ministry in December 1945. Wilkinson was released in April 1946, as a Wing Commander, with an OBE. Wing Commander Wilkinson died on 9th October 2000.

W. Bro Robin Powell SLGR

25th February W. Bro Robin Powell SLGR was installed as the 40th Master of Lodge, becoming the first Lodge Initiate in 1979 to occupy the Masters Chair twice, the first being 1992 as the 27th Master.

Foot note

April 2005 - Mr Adrian Boyd was Initiated into the Lodge, then became the 47th WM in February 2012 and then Secretary in February 2015.

We would welcome visitors to our special meetings, licenced or not, you never know this just might be the spark that gets you involved in another 'universal' hobby.

Please contact W. Bro Adrian Boyd, G4LRP, Lodge secretary at radiofraternitysecretary@gmail.com for further information about the Radio Fraternity Lodge and or how to become a Radio Amateur.

Adrian Boyd - G4LRP
radiofraternitysecretary@gmail.com

CQ WW Contest On A Vertical - John O Neill EI6JOB

Since I got my ticket in 2024, I knew quite well that the space in my QTH was not going to be ideal for antenna's, seen as my back garden space was roughly 10 metre square I was challenged. So, my main aim was to get on the air and talk, as I was a listener for long enough it was now time to turn the so-called tables and enjoy the hobby, I grew up listening to. It was decided that a vertical would fit the job, after many hours of searching and looking for one that had no radials (For obvious reasons…space) I went with the Diamond BBV7 vertical.

The Diamond BBV7 vertical.is asy to put up, decent on most upper bands, but on 40m ,80m not very usable. This antenna gave good results when propagation was good, although some operators had to pull my callsign out of the noise, I was happy that I could make contact into Europe and beyond.

So came the biggest contest on the Amateur radio calendar, the CQ Worldwide contest. I decided to give it a go and see what I could achieve with my set up. Not in a chance would I imagine that I could compete with the 40-foot towers and 8 element antennas, Hex-beams etc but to prove to myself and any other newcomers to the hobby that there is something exciting about contesting, not everyone's cup of tea, I know, but when the bands are full of operators there is a chance to get stations that do not operate regularly.

I started on 40 meters at 1am local time 00:00UTC and got a few stations from UK and Europe and as said the antenna was not brilliant, but it was a good start.

The following morning, I went to 10 Meters, it was jam packed with stations and instead of calling "CQ Contest " I decided to spin the dial and try get the stations, didn't realise that trying to get 1 to reply to me would take 5 minutes or more in some cases, but nonetheless I was happy to go that way. The bands opened outside Europe around 13:00UTC and the stations from USA and S America were being heard, a little tougher to get but managed a few to get some extra points in the bag.

This went on into the evening hours and I was switching between 15 and 20 meters to see can I get a few multipliers. But all in all , I ended up on 10 where my antenna seemed to perform a lot better, the second day of the contest was a busy one but for me, there were plenty dupes from the first day on 10, I could not believe that the contesters were operating from 28.330 up to 28.900. I rarely heard anyone operating beyond 28.600 since getting my licence.

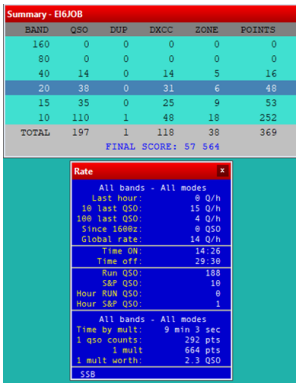
I operated for 14 hrs on and off, as I had other family commitments that weekend. I know my score does not reflect anything like the big contesters but what have I learned from it? As a new licence holder, that might be mic shy, it's a great way to hear and contact stations you might not log on an ordinary day (Pile Ups), it shows what can be achieved with a basic station, even, like me in a built-up city environment QRN, we can all dream big, but are not blessed with space and a quiet XYL ! But do read the contest rules first, or a few times!

What I would love is to hear those bands full every day, not just when that rare DX-pedition comes on and that frequency just lights up until they go QRT, waiting on the cluster to show another rare one, to beginners like me, a rare country from Europe is a thrill the first time they reply "EI6 station please"

So my best from the contest with the BBV7 Antenna. USA, Costa Rico, Brazil, Bonaire, Aruba, US Virgin Islands, Uruguay, Cape Verde, Japan, China, Antigua, French Guiana, Morocco, Kazakhstan, St Barthelemy, Puerto Rico , St Kitts, Argentina, The Gambia, Liechtenstein, Barbados. QSOs were 197 and DXCC was 48 on 10m, 25 on 15m, 31 on 20m and 14 on 40m.

The moral of this story is in the Title, you don't need the big stuff to get your station out there, its more about the fun trying to get your callsign heard, be it contesting, POTA, BOTA , Special Event whatever, enjoy the hobby whatever mode you like.

I had friends from EI3CC call to me a few weeks ago looking at my garden and they came up with a few ideas to erect a EFHW over the next few months, when weather improves, so thanks to John EI3HQB and Wayne EI7HKB looking forward to next year's contest already.



My station Yaesu FT 950 and Diamond BBV7- Contest log was DXLog.net.

About New Packet Radio (NPR)

Packet radio — now there's a blast from the past. Many operators will remember the excitement of using packet in the early 1990s. I certainly do. With no internet available to us then, packet radio was the next best thing. I was using a BayPac TNC at the time, running the standard TNC software, and it opened up a whole new world of digital communication. Over time, packet gradually fell out of favour with many in the hobby, though a dedicated few continued to use it, refine it, and push its limits. From that perseverance came the foundation for New Packet Radio (NPR).

NPR first emerged in 2019, developed by F4HDK. The original 70 cm hardware offers configurable data rates between 100 kbps and 500 kbps, with the capability to reach up to 1 Mbps.

NPR occupies an important middle ground; it provides more bandwidth than the traditional AX.25 (TAPR) protocols used on VHF and UHF, yet does not require the strict line-of-sight conditions or complex hardware associated with high-speed microwave or GHz-range links.

As a result, NPR makes possible RF-based data communications and networking on VHF/UHF that were previously difficult or impossible, delivering higher throughput over practical distances, and doing so at an affordable cost.

Using open-source firmware to implement TCP/IP, NPR integrates seamlessly with existing IP-based systems such as Hamnet, and can serve as a backbone for AX.25 nodes running tools like XRouter or BPQ.

Adoption has been strong worldwide: hundreds of users now employ NPR in both routine operations and emergency-communications networks. A 2 m proof-of-concept version was also developed in 2020 and tested on 146 MHz in the UK.

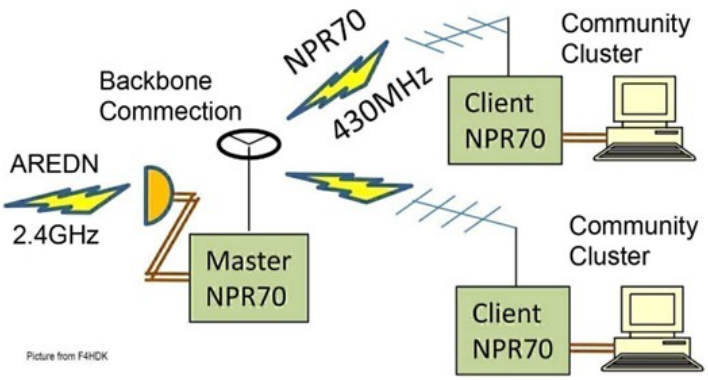
NPR offers immediate use cases such as:

- Local "last-leg" user access
- Backbone links between nodes currently interconnected via the internet (when attached to the same NPR Master)
- Emergency communications, including AREDN-type deployments
- Enhanced digital services supported by higher speeds — video, VoIP, intranet applications, and rich messaging

Key Features

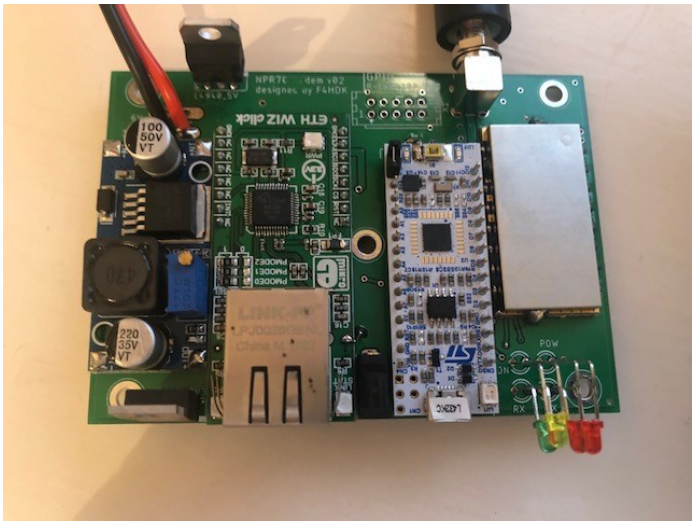
The following highlights some of the core capabilities of New Packet Radio (NPR). This list is not exhaustive, but it captures the main strengths of the system:

- TCP/IP over TDMA: NPR operates using standard TCP/IP carried over a TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access) framework. This ensures seamless compatibility with modern networking infrastructure. In fact, traffic to and from this demo site is routed using standard internet TCP/IP routing, no special handling required.



- Flexible Speeds and Bandwidth Options: NPR supports a range of data rates to suit different bandwidth allocations. It can deliver around 68 kbps within 100 kHz of spectrum, and up to approximately 470 kbps when operating across 1 MHz of bandwidth.
- Kit-Based and Maker-Friendly: Operators can choose to build their own hardware or purchase kits. The NPR and NPR-H project pages on Hackaday provide up-to-date information, designs, and links for those who wish to assemble or customise their own systems.

The Original F4HDK NPR Module



Briefly described, NPR has four key parts (from L-R):

- · A Power Supply Module
- · An Ethernet Module
- · A Microprocessor
- · The RF Module

The Latest F4HDK NPR Module

About New Packet Radio (NPR)

You can buy ready-made New Packet Radio (NPR) modems today from a few sellers. Some common options:

Localino — their online shop sells the latest NPR-H modems (including 3.0, for 70 cm, 2 m, etc). localino.net+1
ElekitsorParts — offers the original 70 cm modem (assembled or as a kit). elekitsorparts.com+1
Online marketplaces such as **Tindie** — you'll find versions like "NPR-H 2.0" there. tindie.com

Other general-electronics or amateur-radio parts sellers -occasionally you'll see listings for "NPR-70 modems" on broader platforms. ebay.com+1

Conclusion

New Packet Radio represents a remarkable evolution of a technology many of us first encountered decades ago. For those who remember the early days of packet radio in the 1990s,experimenting with BayPac TNCs, exchanging text messages over RF, and marvelling at what could be achieved without an internet connection, the emergence of NPR feels both nostalgic and forward-looking.

While traditional packet gradually faded from mainstream use, the determination of a small group of enthusiasts kept the concept alive, refined it, and ultimately re-imagined it for the needs of modern digital communication. NPR is the natural extension of that work: a protocol that bridges past and present by delivering high-speed IP networking over bands long considered too limited for such tasks.

By implementing TCP/IP over TDMA, NPR enables seamless integration with today's network infrastructure while preserving the flexibility and resilience that make amateur radio valuable during emergencies and infrastructure failures. Its scalable bandwidth, practical data rates, and availability as both a modular kit and turnkey device make it accessible to experimenters at every level. From providing last-leg access for local users, to replacing internet-dependent links between nodes, to supporting emergency communications networks such as AREDN, NPR opens the door to a new generation of RF-based digital services, including video, VoIP, rich messaging, and intranet applications.

Most importantly, NPR signals a renewed spirit of innovation within the amateur radio community. It demonstrates that radio experimentation is not only alive but thriving, continually adapting to new challenges and technologies. As more operators deploy NPR systems around the world, we can expect expanded capabilities, wider adoption, and an increasingly robust RF-based digital backbone. NPR is both a nod to our past and a path to our future, proof that with curiosity and perseverance, the hobby continues to evolve in exciting and meaningful ways.

Lez Ferguson - EI4GEB
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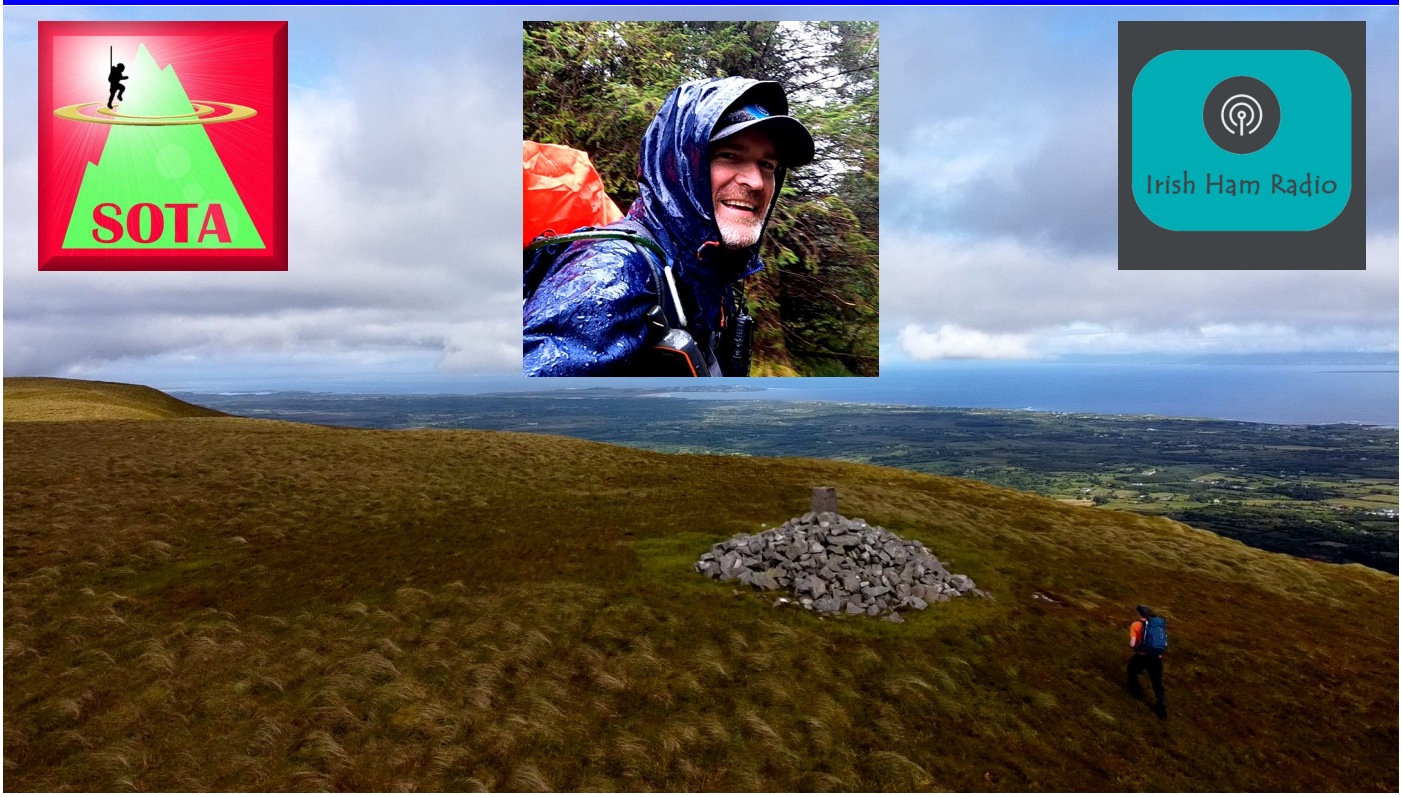
Amateur Radio "Summits On The Air (SOTA)



Amateur Radio & Outdoor Adventure… Two Seemingly Opposite Hobbies… But What if They're Not? Are you a Ham Radio Operator?… Are you a Hiker?… Maybe You're Both?… Or Maybe you're neither… Either way, the fact that you're here suggests your interests may closely align! In this article we shall talk about the Amateur Radio awards scheme Summits On The Air (AKA SOTA)… The wonderous place where Outdoor Adventure and Amateur Radio Collide!

What is SOTA?

SOTA is a worldwide amateur radio award programme whereby licenced operators use their portable radio setups on designated mountain summits and make contacts with other licenced operators. Those who work from the summits are called "Activators" and those who contact the Activators are called "Chasers".

The Activator award is called the "Mountain Goat" and the Chaser award is called the "Shack Sloth". Four contacts with signal exchange must be made to qualify the summit, all contacts must be simplex (radio-radio direct), with the exception of Low Earth Orbit Repeaters, and the Activator must be using fully portable kit, with no part of their radio, antenna or power source coming from or attached to a fixed structure or vehicle.

Both awards require 1,000 points to achieve and in simplest terms, higher summits have more points and lower ones have less, over a scale of 1 to 10. Finally, in some instances, there are Winter Bonus Points for higher summits during certain months, depending on the local regional rules.

Why SOTA?

In modern times, as the world seems to spin faster and we all seem to have less downtime, to be able to dedicate time to one hobby can be difficult, never mind indulging many!

For people like me, interested in many things but struggling to find time for them all, anywhere I can amalgamate more than one is a blessing… That's where SOTA comes in.

My Sundays often involve a hiking/mountain activity, whether alone or with others, and thanks to SOTA, I also

have the motivation to develop, build and hone a lightweight portable radio setup that will work in Irish mountain weather, and of course a reason to use it!

Aside from my personal reasons, if you're a Radio operator not currently into hiking, but are interested in getting outdoors more, SOTA is a great motivator to do so. Being out on the hills and away from the hustle and bustle of modern life is highly beneficial for both the mind and body. Do not be discouraged by the perception that it is challenging to begin. It really can be simpler than you think if you begin with a handheld radio and a nice low summit accessed by a safe and easy well marked trail. One final carrot is the rewarding flatline noise-floor of a remote mountain summit!

On the flip side, if you're a seasoned mountaineer interested in technology and radio, you have a hiking buddy who operates SOTA, or if you've came across a Summit Activation and wondered what they were at, SOTA could be that gateway "hook" you need to delve further into Amateur Radio and eventually inspire you to go for your licence. There is great support out there in local clubs and groups to introduce you to the hobby in general, with focused exam-prep courses also ran by the National Short Wave Listeners Club.

Mountain Safety

The Weather, sunset/sunrise, regardless of season in Ireland, and someone expecting you back, are always my first considerations.

Acquire weather as accurate as possible to the summit location, know what time it will get dark at and aim to be back well before that time unless you are suitably experienced. Let someone know where you will be going and agree a return time they should hear from you by.

Basic Mountain Kit

The basic mountain kit which I always carry and recommend everyone always carries, is my next consideration. Below would be only some of the items I take as standard, but they are absolutely essential.

Mobile Phone fully charged (batteries drain quicker at altitude and in cold weather), Adequate Rucksack with whistle, Adequate Drinking Water, Adequate Food/Snacks, Head Torch with Spare Batteries, First Aid Kit, Survival Bag, Compactable Storm Shelter, Warm Hat, Warm Gloves and a Means of Navigation (only if you know how to use it). If you don't, only visit summits with safe, well-marked trails so you can find your way if fog sets in (which is common in Ireland).

Clothing which varies throughout the year is my final consideration. But in general, the following should be a good summarised guide.

Quality footwear is very important, and I personally always wear waterproof hiking boots regardless of weather/ season. In my view, footwear is the item to spend most time choosing and getting the best quality your budget will allow. It can literally make the difference in you enjoying yourself or suffering, especially on longer hikes!

In warmer weather, suncream, a sun hat and sunglasses are important. Shorts can be comfortable, otherwise lightweight hiking trousers. In Ireland, I always have my waterproof over-trousers and jacket in my bag, as well as a long-sleeve fleece-type layer, and if there is a threat of rain at all on the day, I just put the waterproof trousers on from the beginning and leave them on. Ideally, synthetic "technical" type T-shirts are better to wick sweat and layering off for ascent and on for the summit activation and descent works well. You'll be warm climbing, you can get cold activating on the summit, and the descent is usually less physically demanding, so chillier too.

In colder and wetter weather, a buff/scarf, waterproof gloves, waterproof mittens, an extra sock layer and a second long-sleeve fleece can supplement all the aforementioned items.

If the weather is really bad a lightweight storm shelter provides cover and protection for the Radio Gear

If you ever find yourself lost or in difficulty, stop where you are and call 999 or 112 and ask for Mountain Rescue.

Amateur Radio "Summits On The Air (SOTA)

Radio Equipment & Operating Mode

When it comes to radio equipment, there are as many SOTA equipment combinations as there are SOTA Operators. Everyone will have their preference depending on budget, brand loyalty, antenna type, typical terrain activated, desired power and operating time etc.

The best objective advice I can impart is some of the general guidelines to compiling a system and thereafter showing you my own.

Kit Build General Guidelines

Size & Weight: As a SOTA Activator, along with all the Mountain Kit previously discussed, you also must carry your full radio setup, so size and weight are a major consideration.

Durability: Mountain weather can be harsh and unpredictable, so you need durable rugged gear, or at least durable and rugged protection for more fragile kit.

Power Source: To power your radio, you need to consider whether you need an external battery. This can be to achieve more transmit power, longer operating time, or even as a necessity because your radio does not have a built-in battery.

Antenna: What bands do you wish to operate? How can you operate them with the most efficient signal radiation and simplest setup. Wire antennas usually require a separately erected mast to suspend them, or you can use a self-supporting vertical solid antenna. Your choice can often depend on the mounting arrangement the summit surface will allow. If operating across different mountain terrains, it is likely you will have more than one antenna option in your quiver.

My Equipment & Operating Model

Most commonly, Activators will activate in FM (voice) mode on VHF (2m) & UHF (70cm) bands using a handheld radio and radio mounted whip antenna.

For HF bands, 20m & 40m are popular in SSB (voice) mode and many also operate 30m CW (morse). Usually this requires an externally supported antenna.

Some operators chose to take a single mobile "shack-in-a-box" radio with external antennas, that can operate UHF, VHF & HF Bands in all modes.

My Typical Activation Sequence

Layout my kit (and shelter if required) for the activation.

Prepare for logging by either recording on video or Dictaphone, or using a paper logbook.

The timestamped video/audio record is very handy as in the wind and rain it can be impossible sometimes to write or type on a phone screen.

Using my Anytone ATD878UV Plus Radio and an aftermarket dual band whip antenna, I activate both 2m & 70cm in FM Mode.

Using my Xiegu X6100 HF Radio & External Life Po Battery to get 10 watts transmit power, I activate 20m (for Central/Eastern Europe & DX Long Distance) & then 40m (for Ireland and UK/West Europe).

My antenna will either be the SOTABeams Bandhopper, mounted on the SOTABeams Tactical Mini Pole, or the JPC PAC-12 Tuneable Multiband Vertical, depending on the choice most suitable for the summit and weather.

Amateur Radio "Summits On The Air (SOTA)

Storm Shelter and survival Bag

Where do I Start?

If you are looking to get into radio and SOTA has piqued your interest, enquire about your local club, or speak to a local licenced operator you may know. They may not know much about or be involved in SOTA, but they most likely will know someone who is! Search Facebook & Google for Irish Groups and check out some of the links at the end of the article.

If you're a licenced operator already, its likely you know a SOTA activator. Have a chat to them about it and maybe try tagging along for an activation. Check out your local hillwalking/mountaineering club to see if they can help you begin your adventure on the hills. The Links at the end of the article should also assist you in this regard.

SOTA has a very welcoming and inclusive community in Ireland, and indeed all over the world. I have made what I would very much consider good friends through SOTA alone and it allows me to pursue two of my loves simultaneously, rather than having to forego one for the other. To be honest, to me that's the best thing about Amateur Radio in General, its' versatility. I can operate at home, on holiday, in my car, from my kayak, while camping and of course while Hiking Mountain Summits!

I hope this article has given you an insight to SOTA and why we as activators love it, as well as highlighting some of the mountain safety and equipment considerations involved before taking on an activation. See you on the hills.

Below are some Useful Links/Resources:

Irish Ham Radio SOTA Videos: https://www.youtube.com/@IrishHamRadio/videos

SOTA Official Website: https://www.sota.org.uk/

SOTA Ireland Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/617572191607549/

SOTA Ireland Brochure: https://www.irts.ie/dnloads/sota.pdf

SOTA Beams Equipment Shop: https://www.sotabeams.co.uk/

National SWL Club: https://swl.ie/

Mountaineering Ireland: https://www.mountaineering.ie/

Mountaineering Ireland Safety: https://www.mountaineering.ie/content/StayingSafe/140

About the Author

David Barnes, callsign EI5IMB is a SOTA Activator, YouTube Content Creator, Member of Mountaineering Ireland and Sligo Leitrim Mountain Rescue Team.

Reminiscences of My CB Days

Back in the 70's walkie talkies started to appear. These were just kids' radios working on 49mhz and you were lucky if you got across the road with them and the batteries died fairly quick so QSO's were fairly short.

I found paradise in Manchester City Centre, a shop (Mazel Radio) that, in my eyes, was what I was looking for as they sold ex-army equipment, old radio's and so on. Back then most things worked on valves, and you soon got used to the valve number designations.

If someone said my television picture had gone funny you could say maybe the valve 804 or the likes had given up.

The owner of the shop was a wealth of information scanners were very few and far between and so you either got old military or built your own.

In the early 70's CB radios started to appear on 27 MHz. They were initially on AM and the cost was extremely expensive. They were frowned upon by the authorities and deemed to interfere with medical devices, model aircraft and a few other devices.

This information was spread at the time as the UK Government had no legislation in place to license them so bad news seemed the best way to try and rid homes of owning a CB radio.

In my case, to acquire a radio it was a trip into Manchester to Tib Street. For many years, this slender stretch of Northern Quarter had a single definitive trade that used to attract Mancunians in their thousands - Animals.

Established as an agricultural space in the 1800s, Tib Street gradually morphed into a pet shop paradise during the early 20th century; a cavalcade of creatures peeking out from behind the windows that lined the street.

One shop in particular on Tib St. R Groves and Sons, had a supply of CB Radio's which were being brought into the UK via the Isle of man, the Isle of man having its own government and had no issue with CB radio on the island. Regular trips were being made over to gather stock.

The source of the radio's was a guarded secret and only spread amongst those in the CB circles who you could trust no Amazon etc. back then so a supplier was a must for getting equipment.

A trip to Tib street was made and on entering the shop you had been given instructions to go to the rear of the shop that where the racing pigeons would be sold and find Walter. Once found you would talk out of the side of your mouth and mumble ....I am looking for a CB a reply was £40 pounds and call back in one hour, that back then was a weeks wage and if it went pear shaped you could not call the police as you were involved in an illegal trade.

On returning in one hour, you received a brown paper bag and what looked like filled with Pidgeon corn? You went around the block with your bag and on removing some of the corn you would find your new CB radio.

The next job was to find someone who could help set the radio up and to no surprise the humble biscuit tin was worth more than gold back then as a great grounding for a CB antenna and the attic was the home for such an item. You also found out you needed an SWR meter ...what the hell was an SWR meter, you soon found out that you needed to tune an antenna to the radio or it would go bang.

The meter in question would give a reading of resonance or in other words that the antenna was able to transmit on the frequency of the transmitter as it had been tuned to match the radio.

This in the day was all mind-blowing stuff SWR's ground plane's tunning a radio to an antenna - what next? Next was a handle or CB name that gave you identity and it would make you known to other listeners calling on the recognised calling channel 19.

CB was to grow in the UK. It seemed everyone wanted to be on the airways and this was way before the mobile phone era so being able to talk with your friends over the airways was like science fiction.

Clubs were formed in different areas and facilitated a wealth of information on the best home base antenna or mobile antenna and again even helping with the dreaded TVI.

One club I was involved in was located in Ardwick Manchester it was known as the 10-100 club and if you know your 10 code it's not hard to work that out, the meeting was held every Thursday night in a local pub

Reminiscences of My CB Days

function room, on the door was an ominous guy called Geronimo this guy looked like a Viking about 20 stone with big beard and a pickaxe handle.

He was the local CB law maker so anyone caught swearing or messing about on he would deal with you. Nothing would be said on air but if you entered the club, you were escorted outside and another notch was added to the pickaxe handle, and if needed, an ambulance called for your lift home.

Another feature of the club was rising money for charity, again you would be picked at random on the door and stripped to the waste and handcuffed to a chair on stage and at approx. 10pm cream pies were auctioned off and you could go and stuff your pie where ever suited this was a great laugh with all at the club meeting and raised money for the local children's hospital.

The next move was to go mobile with your rig, in my case it was an issue as my mobile in winter was a reliant regal three wheeled car, being a motor cyclist with a nice Kawasaki Z700 the rule was not to ride in the winter for a number of reasons, one being ice on the roads and gritting in the UK was a salt based and only loved to corrode your lovely shining engine casings in to mass corrosion.

A lot of motor cyclists picked up the reliant regal made famous by only fools and horses Del boy as a mode of transport over the winter and you were allowed to drive these as they were classed as a tricycle and your motorbike licence covered you.

Fitting a CB into one of these was a challenge with them being a fibreglass body, one tip at the time was to stick tinfoil on the underside of the roof to act as a ground plane. So, with the trusty DV27 stuck on the roof it looked more like a dodgem car at the fair ground. This didn't always work so wires were brought up from the chassis to help the grounding.

The next problem was noise from the spark plugs and a whine from the dynamo so suppressors were bought and stuck where ever you thought you needed them until you got silence.

By now your knowledge of electronics has grown and you are aware that if the antenna is not grounded correct then the SWR won't reduce to match the radio and that you needed to reduce noise that your transport was introducing into your new radio.

The next problem was the local police, in my case in Manchester. The rule was, if you were caught with a CB in the vehicle, it was removed placed under the wheel of the vehicle and you were told drive forward this in turn crushed the radio, You needed to make yourself as inconspicuous as possible so the DV27 had to go as it was a well known antenna with the police, various types were tried some even stuck on your wind screen and looked like an FM radio antenna.

These were limited in there use and over time the police had twigged which antenna to look out for some pushed their luck with eight-foot firesticks or red lights on the tips of antenna that light up on transmission.

The other choice of transmission was a home base station. This had its issues with TVI (television interference). The popular antenna at the time was a silver rod and even with four watts you could make every TV in the area black out while you were talking to your good buddies. This made the CB user very un-popular and at the sight of an antenna going on a property the first word from the neighbour was if it interfered with the TV they would come around and shove the radio up where the sun don't shine.

With all the negative press and stories of AM CB, the UK government decided to make CB legal but only 40 channel FM and so was born 27/81 everyone wanted a radio all the electronic shops and stores sold them. Uncles, granny's and kids were on them, and, to some degree, it was complete and utter chaos as the number of channels caused verbal war on the radios. Some of the die hard operators stayed on AM for as long as they could, but it was only a matter of time that the days of CB had passed it's boom and this in turn led to a big influx into Ham radio for those who still had an interest in communication. CB is still with us and going strong back on the old AM freq and with a far better procedure of operating.

John Tubritt - EI3HQB
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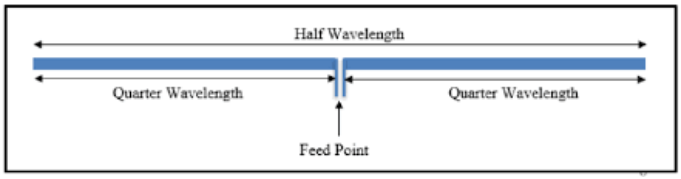
Building Your First Halfwave Dipole

Are you new to amateur radio or looking for a simple, effective antenna project? Building a half-wave dipole antenna is a fantastic starting point! It's affordable, easy to construct, and a great way to learn the basics of antennas.

What is a Half-Wave Dipole Antenna?

A half-wave dipole is a basic antenna made from two conductive elements (usually wire) of equal length. When combined, the total length of these elements is approximately half of the wavelength of the radio frequency you want to use. It's a popular choice for beginners because it's relatively simple to build and performs well, and can cost next to nothing, as there is a good chance you already have all the bits you need knocking about in your shack or garage..



Why Use a Half-Wave Dipole?

Cost-Effective: You can build one with readily available and inexpensive materials, like wire and some connectors.

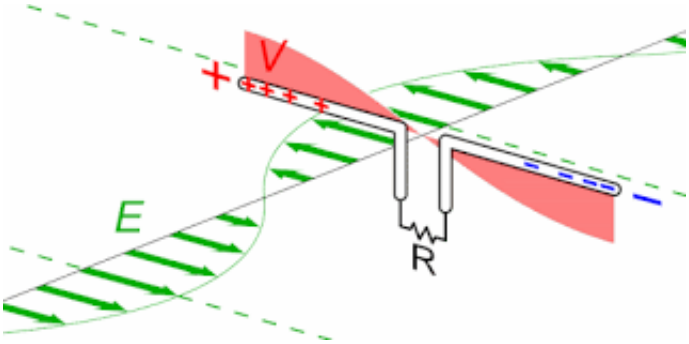
Versatile: It works well for all HF frequencies, and in inverted V form, it will take up little room.

Educational: It's an excellent way to understand fundamental antenna principles.

Effective: Despite its simplicity, it's a very efficient antenna for transmitting and receiving signals.

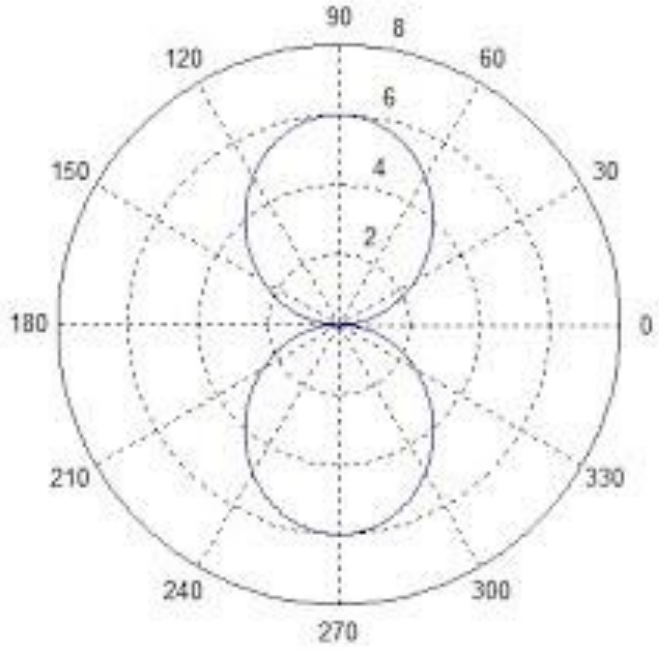
How Does It Work?

The dipole antenna works by interacting with the radio waves. When a radio signal is sent to the antenna, it causes electrons in the wire to move back and forth. This movement creates a magnetic field and an electric field, which radiate outwards as radio waves. The antenna is most effective when its total length is close to half a wavelength of the signal's frequency. This length allows the antenna to resonate efficiently with the radio waves.



Directionality

A dipole antenna is directional, meaning it sends and receives signals best in certain directions. It transmits and receives signals most strongly perpendicular (at a 90-degree angle) to the wire. It transmits and receives signals least effectively off the ends of the antenna. This directional pattern is called the "radiation pattern."



How to Build a Half-Wave Dipole Antenna

Building a dipole is straightforward. You'll need

Wire: Insulated copper wire is common. The gauge (thickness) isn't critical for basic operation, but it needs to be strong enough to withstand the weather.

Centre Insulator: This piece connects the two wire elements and provides a point to attach your coaxial (coax) cable. You can buy one or make one from sturdy plastic. For a portable antenna, you could even use an electrical connector; for a permanent install, use a connector that is waterproof.

End Insulators: These attach to the ends of the wire elements and are used to secure the antenna to support ropes.

Coaxial Cable (Coax): This carries the radio signal from your transmitter to the antenna and from the antenna to your receiver. RG-58 or RG-213 are common choices.

Connectors: Usually, an SO-239 connector on the centre insulator to connect to your coax, or you might solder directly.

Steps

Calculate the Length: Use the formula below to determine the total length of wire needed.

Cut the Wire: Cut two pieces of wire to the calculated length.

Prepare the Centre: Attach one end of each wire to the terminals on your centre insulator. Ensure they are securely connected. Remember, this point is taking the weight of the antenna and the feeder, so make sure the connection is secure and able to carry the weight. Fitting some form of strain relief is good practice.

Building Your First Halfwave Dipole

Attach Coax: Connect your coaxial cable to the centre insulator. If you have an SO-239 connector, you'll attach a PL-259 connector to your coax and screw them together. If you're soldering directly, connect the centre conductor of the coax to one wire and the braid (shield) of the coax to the other wire.

Attach End Insulators: Secure an end insulator to the free end of each wire.

Hang the Antenna: Attach ropes to the end insulators and hang the antenna. It can be strung horizontally, in an "inverted V" shape (with the centre higher than the ends), or in other configurations to suit the space you have.

Calculating Antenna Length

To find the length of each element (half of the total dipole), you'll use this formula:

Length (in feet) = 468 / Frequency (in MHz)

This formula gives you the approximate total length of the antenna. Since a dipole has two equal sides, you'll divide this total length by two to get the length of each wire element.

Length per element (in ft) = (468 / Frequency (in MHz)) / 2

Note: The number '468' is a constant that accounts for the "velocity factor" and "end effect" of the wire, meaning the antenna will be slightly shorter than the actual half-wavelength in free space.

Example Calculation

Let's say you want to build a dipole antenna for the 2-meter amateur radio band, which is around 146 MHz.

Calculate Total Length

Length = 468 / 146 MHz Length ≈ 3.21 feet

Calculate Length Per Element

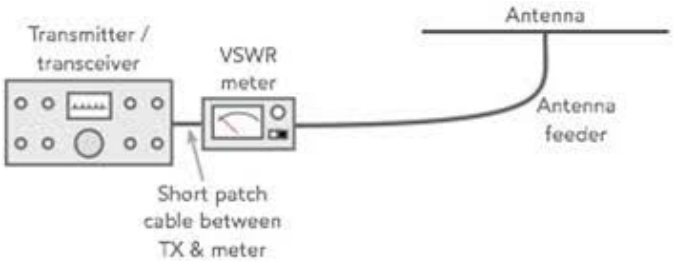
Length per element = 3.21 ft / 2 Length per element ≈ 1.61 ft

So, you would cut two pieces of wire, each about 1.61 feet long.

Connecting to Coax Cable

Properly connecting the coax cable is crucial. The centre conductor of the coax connects to one side of the antenna, and the outer shield (braid) of the coax connects to the other side. This balanced connection is important for the antenna to work efficiently. If your centre insulator has screw terminals, this is usually clear: one terminal for one wire, and the other terminal for the second wire. Ensure the coax centre conductor goes to one terminal and the coax braid goes to the other.

Tuning the Dipole for 50 Ω Match



Connect the transmitter to the SWR Bridge and the connect the antenna as shown in the Diagram.

- Apply enough power to show a full scale deflection of forward power.
- Set the transmitter to the lower end of the band and observe the reading
- Set the Transmitter to the higher end of the band and observe the reading.

If the reflected power reading is lower at the low end but high at the higher end the antenna is too long.

Remove a small amount of wire from each side of the dipole and retest.

Aim to get the lowest SWR in the middle of the band.

If the reflected power is low at the high end of the band and high at the lower end of the band the antenna is too short.

Add a small amount of wire to each side of the dipole and retest. Again aim to achieve the lowest SWR in the centre of the band.

Alternative method of tuning the Antenna.

Using an Antenna analyser (VNA)

- Connect the length of coax you intend to use from the antenna to the Antenna Analyser.
- Set the Analyser to show the band edges from the lower limit of the desired band to the highest limit of the band.
- Observe the display

The yellow line shows the resonance curve of the antenna. Aim to get the dip of the curve to line up with the centre of the desired band. Again remove a small amount of wire from each element of the dipole of the curve leans towards the lower end of the band.

Add a small amount of wire from each element of the curve leans towards the high end of the band.

Building and using a half-wave dipole is a rewarding experience and will get you on the air quickly.

Dale McWilliams - EI7HDB
dalemc@gmail.com

EI3CC JOTA 2025

EI3CC are fortunate that we have five scout groups with great interest in our hobby. Three are now registering for the HAREC course in 2026 and we will have more to follow. This Year, JOTA/JOTI was from our wonderful site in Ballyscanlon just outside Tramore. it is the home of the Copper Coast Scout Group and overlooks the forest and lakes and into the mountains.

There was a second scout base on the high ground in the top of the image, and this is where we run our QO-100 operations as it gives a near 360 degree view and allows us a good path to the satellite.

The Group arrived on a Friday afternoon, this allowing us to set up camp and some of the radio equipment ready for an early start on Saturday.

We are now the proud owners of a new scout building, and this would be the first time it was to be used for a radio event. The building is still being finished but we can use some of the rooms as needed and we had our caravan and RCU (radio unit) in tow as well.

We started setting up but the weather was to play a big factor over the weekend so being on site early was a good start for Saturday as heavy rains we due in at mid-day.

Some of the scouts were also starting to arrive and as much as having a nice new building they still are very grass roots in as much as wanting to be out doors so in no time the tents were being erected and also hammocks too on the front porch of the new building.

EI3CC JOTA 2025

Soon we would runout of daylight but we had more or less got everything set up on the lower camp, Dale EI7HDB was busy in the kitchen making up a fine curry and that would warm up the troops having been out all afternoon getting the JOTA camp set up.

A well deserved rest and settled down in the group caravan after the curry and planned the tasks ahead for Saturday and what the agenda would be for the day and times allocated to each program, so with that in place we had a nice coffee and retired to the sleeping bags and got ready for Saturday.

We were awake early Saturday Wayne EI7HKB was busy on the frying pan getting breakfast ready the scouts too were also getting breakfast. We had a start time of 10.am so a lot to do on the upper camp with the QO-100 and also a CB station and some air tracking and meshtastic equipment to set up so after the breakfast it was all hands-on deck for the final setup.

We planned a surprise visit with an outside broadcast TV unit this was a special treat and we hoped it would go down well.

Steve, EI5DD, travelled down from Galway on Friday, and was going to run the QO-100 while Wayne would be on standby and assisting the scouts with the Air traffic programs, meshtastic and the CB radio station.

Our CB stations were set up to link the two camps and allow the scouts to experience radio operating on a starter level and a system that did not require a license. This proved very popular with them and the 11 metre CB band was very busy throughout the day.

Steve and Wayne were busy with the QO-100 and trying a new location with some cover as the rain was to hit us by noon.

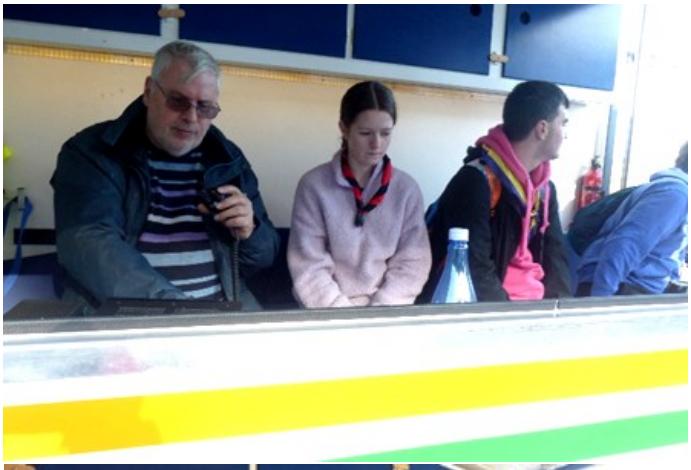
Our surprise guest had arrived on the lower camp. Riverside Television facilitates the most successful television production companies in Ireland, the UK and overseas to produce broadcast television programs of the highest standards.

Cyril was on hand to explain how this unit among others they have in the fleet that can record and send TV images up to a satellite such as Astra, such as major sporting events which in turn are then received all over the globe.

A queue had built up in no time and soon a microphone and camera were deployed and the scout group had its own TV station. A demonstration of editing and uploading the interviews via a satellite followed.

EI3CC JOTA 2025

Meanwhile Dale EI7HDB was hosting the HF station in the RCU bands were good and the logbook was filling fast HF equipment used was a Icom 7300 on an end fed half wave at about 30 feet running 100 watts.



Inside the new building John EI7IG was giving a demo on VHF / UHF with his impressive go-box. A local repeater was used for contacts with other waiting scouts. We had a number of electronic kits the scouts could build and experiment with.

The camp was in full swing from a TV station to Satellite HF VHF UHF CB Aircraft monitoring and meshtastic and PMR. By mid-morning the rain started to get heavier so our new building came into its own with having a glazed canopy over the full length of the building.

One group of scouts was tasked to erect our new 50 foot portable Mast and have it fully guyed displaying the scout group flag this was carried out under supervision and I have to say they did a top job.

After lunch John EI3HQB made contacts and did demonstrations of CW in our RCU, CW is always popular with the scouts and in no time we had a queue for the key.

A contact sheet was prepared with the usual CQ CQ CQ ...TNX fer UR Call, UR RST, name and QTH etc. which each scout had to master and that went on to sending words that the other scouts had to decipher.

Meanwhile on the upper camp in the rain Steve and Wayne persisted with the QO-100. Jorge EI5033 had a QSO with one of his countrymen in Portugal and in his native language via the QO-100. Bruno was busy tracking the aircraft and messages on the meshtastic.

EI3CC JOTA 2025

Another game that was brilliant was the LEGO game, this is where one group has the instructions for a LEGO build while the other group has the pieces.

One group with instructions was in the RCU while the group with the pieces was in the main building and the only point of contact was PMR handheld radio, so the instruction on how the parts fit is given over the radio and the assembly crew have to work out what piece it is and also request info to its position in the build.

We were tired, wet and it had been a long day. The radio's worked flat out all day and many contacts logged, it was nice to sit in the RCU as the light faded and still hear scout groups calling into the night.

The scouts decided to have a night hike into the forest with PMR radios for comms we were all to tired after the day and we called it an early night, big grins on our faces after the day we had and great to see happy scouts enjoying the radio JOTA.

Soon the light was to fade Cyrill was busy all day with the TV station and we even managed a look on board before he called it a day after giving a demonstration to Steve EI5DD.

It was time for our evening dinner Sue EI1826 was again on hand with thee now traditional Sheppard's pie which went down a treat and, in my case EI3HQB, the team bought me a birthday cake so we didn't go hungry that evening.

EI3CC JOTA 2025

Fresh and bright on Sunday morning and looking forward to another one of Wayne's breakfast and he didn't disappoint plenty for everyone and ready for the next part of the JOTA.

On Sunday we had to be off site by 12 noon as the scouts had another group meet up on the other side of the valley so most of Sunday morning was filled with a question and answer session and then dismantling the equipment and packing it away safe.`

Did we have a good JOTA with such poor weather? Damm right we did!

To summarise our activities

1) HF Operation from the RCU
2) VHF Operation from the Radio Shack - main building
3) QO-100 Satellite Operation from the Second Base Camp
4) Hoisting and lowering of a 50ft mast for antennas
5) CB Operation between Base Camps
6) Demonstration of Meshtastic
7) Demonstration of Live ADSB Flight Tracker
8) Demonstration and construction of Basic Electronic Circuits
9) Use of Handheld Radio's and Radio Procedure
10) Building of Lego Projects via instructions given over the air
11) Demonstration of an Outside Broadcasting unit - recording of an interview, uploading and downloading of same via a satellite

At the end of the day it's what you make it - radios were operated continuously from Friday afternoon until Sunday morning and all the scouts got involved. There was plenty of variety to hold their interest. Six Scouts displayed an interest in taking the license examination sometime in the future. There could be one or two potential outside broadcasters in the group as the demonstration courted a huge interest. One Scout in particular was already very involved in making YouTube Videos.

Special thanks to the EI3CC members who pooled their expertise to make this an interesting an informative weekend. We also thank Cyril from Riverside Television for taking the time to display his Outside Broadcast unit.

So another EI3CC JOTA was over and already plans afoot for the 2026 JOTA so if your not involved with scout groups then get involved it could be the future of our hobby bringing youth into it and giving an insight on what we do with our radios.

John Tubritt - EI3HQB
ei3hqb@gmail.com

Hello all Radio Friends

We are the CB Funkfreunde (Radio Friends) Hassberge, based in the beautiful region of Franconia, part of Bavaria, Germany. We have been into radio communication since the 80s, some with breaks, others continuously. We are united by our love for the hobby, and our group consists of CB radio enthusiasts and Ham Radio Operators who've dusted off their CB gear to join us on the 11m band.

Our Activities

Daily Virtual Meetup: We are on the air daily on 27.355 MHz, channel 35, and we also have DX connections when conditions permit.

Sunday USB Round: Every Sunday at 8 PM, we have our Sunday USB round, which takes dedication to keep going, even when participation is low. But we're good at it, and it's paying off.

Our Goals

Promoting CB Radio: We aim to take CB radio to the next level, showing it's possible to operate it professionally and with quality.

Attracting Youth

We are aware that radio communication is not on many people's minds, especially with the internet and smartphones. We're working with Ham Radio Operators to make CB radio appealing to young people again.

Upcoming Events

CB Radio Meet's BBQ: We're planning a meet-and-greet event with a BBQ.

For CB radio enthusiasts, amateur radio operators, former radio enthusiasts, and interested individuals of all ages. The entire event will take place on our Pirate Hill, and this inaugural gathering will serve as an opportunity for us to gauge interest and get a feel for the event. Subsequent events may be larger, contingent upon the response...

Castles on the Air

A CB version of this popular event, complete with special QSL cards. We are keen to adopt "Castles on the Air" as part of our CB radio activities. There's something truly special about combining history and technology, after all. By activating the castle, we'll be offering a unique experience that will appeal to history enthusiasts, radio operators, and QSL card collectors alike, particularly those who appreciate cards designed and printed specifically for special events.

Workshops

We will be offering courses like "Building an antenna from coaxial cable" and "Soldering PL connectors."

These workshops aim to demonstrate to those interested in radio communication that our hobby encompasses more than just pressing the PTT button. Radio operation is a hobby that combines technical understanding and the passion for building something oneself to create a cohesive whole. It is particularly beneficial to start with CB radio, as it can spark the curiosity to pursue a Ham license or simply to continue enjoying CB radio at a more advanced level

Field Day

We will be teaming up with local Ham radio operators for a field day, setting up a mobile shack shelter for 11m operations.

We are committed to breaking down the stereotypes between Ham radio operators and CB radio enthusiasts. We want to prove that we're not the chaotic, undisciplined individuals that some might think we are. Instead, we aim to establish a relationship based on mutual respect and equality, which will help us to be taken seriously as potential candidates for a Ham license. We don't want to be seen as unworthy of obtaining a license simply because we're CB radio enthusiasts.

There are, of course, some individuals in every community who don't fit the Mold, but not all CB radio enthusiasts are the same. Some of us may not be interested in obtaining a license, but we have hearts of gold and are always there to help those in need, regardless of their licensure status.

We need to learn to stand together and understand that if we do not unite, we will be divided and ultimately fall apart. A strong, supportive radio community that exudes unity is not only healthy but also attractive to newcomers.

Get in Touch with the CB Funkfreunde Hassberge

You can find us at
www.cb-hassberge.de

Or on Facebook at
https://www.facebook.com/groups/526088727102330/

Or through our mail box

HAS DX
P.O.BOX 1115
97428 Hassfurt
Germany

Uwe - Prepper 14
cbdxclub@gmail.com

The KSOB Wire Antennas Part II

Greetings again from the shed and carry on MY story of wire beams and Part II to continue my story of my history with Quad wire antennas after telling you about Part I of the Moxon's. I believe going far enough back over the years I have been in Cornwall and started my Full Wave Quads with a smaller form or Quagis. Being a mixture of Quad wire elements and Yagi aluminium elements.

The first one of this type I built was for 2m in Quagi form using a Reflector and Driven wire elements. Note this part of antenna is Full Wave Quad wire elements.

Note the back-end elements being wire Full Wave Quads and first use of spreaders as in this 8 element Quagi beam using conduit loads with wooden rods and quite a length long. It worked well for what it did and I could break down this Quagi onto 3 sections and take portable and slap on couple of poles reaching 20ft off the ground.

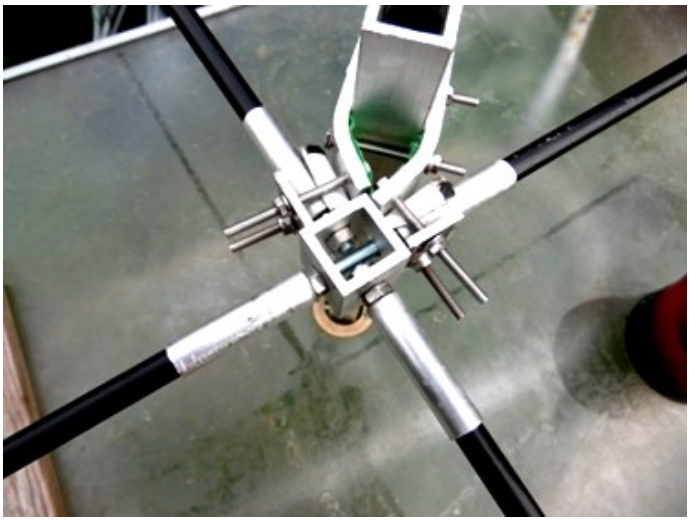
My 70cms version of same above Quagi and was 17 elements from here in Cornwall nr Plymouth And from here, I managed a 10W contact to a 10W Portable station in SSB on 432MHz . This made my day.

I took the 2m Quagi one step further

Making it a 9 Element using 5 Full Wave wire loops and 4 Yagi elements, thus increasing the gain of the antenna, a step further towards making Full Wave Quads. The wonderful thing about Quads, are there shorter booms and greater gains than Yagis of same number of elements. The best thing of all the floor noise level is well less of a Yagi, but they are bigger antenna hence being a Full Wave unlike like a Yagi being a half wave.

So next job was to improve the 6m side of things and went online and learnt more about Quad antennas as you can make them from Aluminium tubing or even copper brake pipe but is a significant increase in weight.

The next wire beam is the 4 element wire Quad for 6m band



Note the use of 5mm Aluminium plate add boxed Aluminium tubing 25mm/3mm thick and adding the spreader arms onto the clamp that fixes to the boom itself holding it all in place. All cut and bent to shape and drilled

The KSOB Wire Antennas Part II

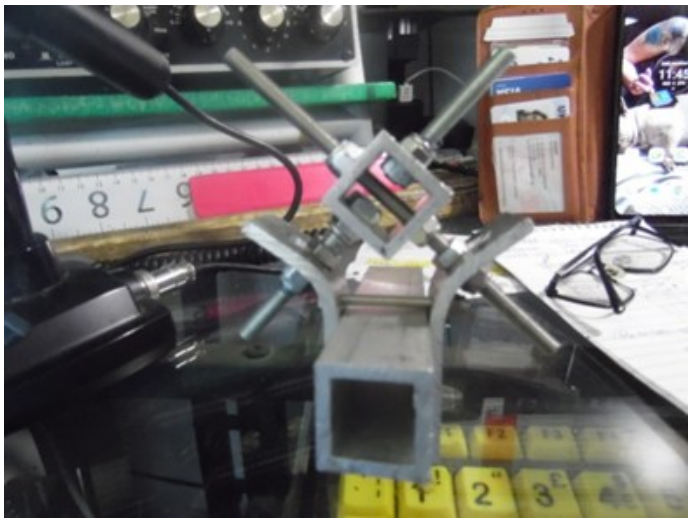
to fit. And strong enough to hold the elements of wire along the spreader arms of fibre glass tent poles 10mm thick with modesty block at end to hold the wire elements in place. This Antenna in past autumn of 2024 I managed to reach east coast of Canada again and many east coast states of USA and into UAE with 50w from the radio. But note this time this was on solar cycle peak using Very high MUF with peaks of highs hitting 55MHz on SSB mode.

I have bought myself a FT-710 with the inclusion of 4-metres. My next wire quad I antenna - my 5 Element Full Wave Quad wire 4m beam. This was constructed in a similar manner but features some enhancements when compared to its counterpart, the 4-element 6M quad beam.

Starting with my brackets to hold the spreaders to the bracket that secures it to the boom of 25mm Boxed 3mm thick Aluminium. I made my spreaders by adding small lengths of threaded bar with modesty blocks at end and using a flanged nut at the end of the tent pole. It's possible to extend the spreader and tension up the element to a degree it will not flop about.

And the story does not stop here

Next combine both antennas on one Boom and make a Diplexer box, so one coax feeds the antennas and divides the frequency of transmission using a home brewed Low pass filter set about 60mhz and a High past filter set



about 66 MHz in an Aluminium box that will be mounted on the boom.

Future Plans for 2026 Antenna Improvements

I have drawn up plans for upgrades for 2026 and antenna improvements, firstly my Full Wave 40m sky loop for 40m is due for element replacement as its 11 years old and tarnished. I won't be putting back on the old Q stub but will feed via ladder line 300ohm down to a box containing a 4:1 A-Balun and a 1:1 Balun then reducing the coax run from 20M to probably about 5m in length. The idea is to totally upgrade a particularly good antenna I have had up and worked world for past 11 years and shorten and improve the overall feeding length.

Next to turn my 2-band wire Quad into a 3-band wire quad by adding 2m elements and add further filtering to the dual filter box already in place.

It is possible to operate any one of the three bands simultaneously; however, this approach is feasible with quad antennas mounted on a single boom, unlike Yagi beam antennas, which typically require multiple booms.

73s

De

Karl 2E0FEH

freebirds658@aol.com

From the Kernow Shed of

Build in a lost part of Cornwall

WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY STATION IMPROVING NEW YEAR

From Cub Leader to JOTA Facilitator - Frank EI8JLB

This is my journey from Cub Scout Leader (Scouter) to getting my license and running my first JOTA activity for the 11th Waterford Scout Group here in Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, Ireland.

I joined the 11th Waterford Scout group back in 2016 as a Cub leader. We are a very active group with approx. 36 cubs in our section. Having an engineering background, I'm always looking at trying to introduce something different to our cub section. In a former life, I was into motorised model cars and planes, and from this we introduced the Air adventure skills badge into our group and came up with ingenious ways to simulate airport's check in security all during Covid times. I was also able to explain the working parts of the plane to the cubs which enabled them achieve their adventure skills badges towards Cub Chief Scout awards.

I have always had an interest in radio, and I suppose like all of a similar age, I grew up when citizen band (CB) radio was all the rage. I remember when I had a summer job at the local Opel Dealership in Dungarvan, at lunch time, the mechanics would talk on the CB for lunch break. I remember even been given a chance to talk and was fascinated by this. This was way before the mobile phone era and being able to talk to people approximately 15 to 20 miles away from a car was awe inspiring.

Fast forward to when I was doing my apprenticeship, the CB era was still there but on decline and I managed to lay my hands on a second-hand base station (Cobra, I think)

I put a President 40 channel set in my dad's car. Like me he was blown away with the ability to communicate with home when he was collecting me from doing my City & Guilds Electrical engineering night course from Waterford and from approx. 20 miles away being able to make contact with home! I think this was the burning ember in my mind which never quenched.

Fast forward to May 2023, at a chance meeting with Collective Communications (EI3CC) on the Prom in Tramore during one of their local fundraiser for the Tramore RNLI, I bumped into one John Tubbritt EI3HQB, Wayne Lewis EI7HKB and Keith Crittenden EI5KJ, and after seeing their setup and providing guidance on my next steps, I proceeded to join EI3CC straight away.

It was suggested that I join Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS) and enrol for Shortwave Listeners (SWL) and sign up for the next HAREC course which I did. From seeing the EI3CC transceiver, I observed its ease of use and with this quick demonstration,

I was hooked. I purchased the same ICOM 7300 and made up my own dipole (20M) and was now an SWL (Short Wave Listener) and could listen to people talking from all over the world.

EI3CC organized JOTA for Copper Coast Scout group in Waterford in 2024, and I was invited to call down and see what JOTA was all about.

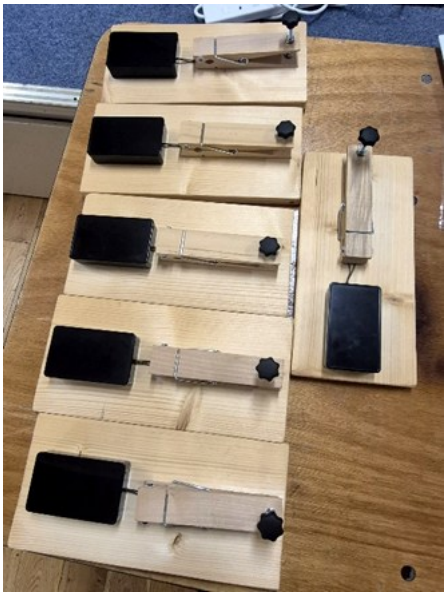
The following November, I joined Class "Hotel" and then it hit home that I was taking my first steps towards my license. Classes ran every Thursday from 20:00 to 22:00 with Sunday socials on Sundays from 20:00 to 22:00 from New Year where the focus was on reviewing what was covered the previous Thursday or any questions we had which were radio related. I must admit I really enjoyed this course and all the tutors did a great job covering the content and also simplifying sections which we all found complex.

Having successfully completed the course and getting my new call sign EI8JLB in May 2025, I was now in position to get on air solo. I liked the thought of activating Parks on the Air (POTA), and as a post exam treat, I purchased a Yaesu FT891 transceiver and an M1ECC sidewinder vertical antenna which can be used from 40M to 10M bands. My first solo POTA activation, was to Glenshelane Woods National Forest (IE-0095) and in the space of 60 minutes I received 20 QSO and from that point I was hooked.

During one of our Sunday Socials, John Holland EI1RSI gave a moving introduction to Radio Scouting Ireland and JOTA and I knew I wanted to do JOTA for our scout group the 11th Waterford. I made enquiries

From Cub Leader to JOTA Facilitator - Frank EI8JLB

regarding setting up a club and what was the paperwork required. Both John Holland and John Tubbritt provided guidance and following discussion with our group council, I applied for 11th Waterford Group call sign EI-11WAT. Following my successful application, I set my sights on how a single licensee could hold a JOTA and how would I make radio interesting for 9 – 11 year olds.



I set about making timber Morse keys for cubs with Hangman Morse being the order of the day. Phonic alphabet cards on one side with Morse code on the second side.

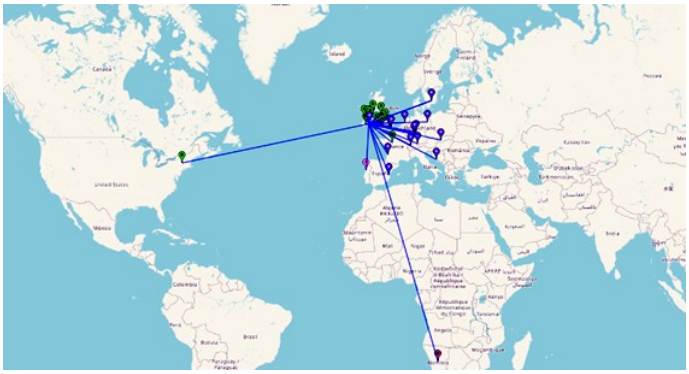
During our planning meeting, we agreed that I would lead an "Amateur Radio" themed night on the Thursday before JOTA. So for my meeting, handouts were given to the cubs, explaining amateur radio.

I had set up display of all the equipment to hand, my ICOM 7300, YAESU FT891, the Baofeng UV5R, ICOM Hand held marine radio, examples of antennae, 20M dipole, EFHW antenna, timber Morse Keys.

Prior to the meeting I put out a call to all our EI3CC club members to say that I would be trying to link into the repeater network via the Helvick Head repeater.

I put out a call and John EI0JOTA came back immediately to the call and all kids were in awe of how I made contact with the President of Radio Scouting Ireland. This was our first contact using the EI-11WAT call sign. I asked if John would talk to the cubs and when I handed the radio to Fionn, he was a natural. All the cubs were silent and listened to the conversation as it happened in real time and they wanted to have a go. Also one cub Paddy, was fascinated in Morse and even told me that his grandad was a former communications officer at sea. I knew the Amateur radio was now a hit with the cubs.

So the Friday before Jota, the End Fed Half Wave antenna (Wayne EI7HKB special) with the help of my son Eoghan (a newly invested Leader) set about setting up so as to be ready for Saturday and Sunday. The EFHW worked brilliantly with total of 46 QSO made from all over the world.



We had in total 36 Cubs, Scouts, Ventures, Rovers and 4 leaders all communicate over the radio.
Radio Scouting Ireland 1st QSO badges were handed out to all, we even ran out of badges so more have been ordered.

The following Thursday night, we held an After Action Review (AAR) of JOTA and the feedback was excellent. Everyone enjoyed it and the only negative was the waiting as only 1 radio.... All loved JOTA and want to know will we be doing the same when we go on camp.

From Cub Leader to JOTA Facillitator - Frank EI8JLB

It is my plan to bring the same to camp and show all the enjoyment one gets from the hobby and we can actually communicate without the use of phones and computers especially during emergencies. Even last week I had 2 cubs enquiring how they would go about getting a license.

To quote the Administrator of US Department of Homeland Security "When Everything Else Fails. Amateur Radio often times is our last line of defence...

When you need amateur radio, you really need them". Onwards and upwards for JOTA 2026.

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At last! The New Yaesu FTX-1. Will it be our Best Seller for 2025?

ML&S YAESU

FTX-1F & FTX-1 Optima

FTX-1F Base Model 6-10W all mode all band. RRP: £1499.00

FTX-1 Optima as above with 100W amplifier. RRP: £1950.00

FTX-1 Field – Compact 10W Portable HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver

The FTX-1 is available in two configurations to suit different operating styles:

FTX-1 Field – Designed for portable operation, this version includes the 6400mAh SBR-52LI Li-ion Battery and delivers up to 10W output with an external DC supply (or 6W standalone). Perfect for SOTA, POTA, and mobile use.

FTX-1 Optima – A complete base station solution. Includes the same Field Head and battery as the Field version, but also comes with the SPA-1 100W RF Power Amplifier for full-power operation at home or in the shack.

Both versions share the same high-performance core transceiver – the compact "Field Head" – but differ in how much output power and operating flexibility they provide straight out of the box.

Yaesu FTX-1 Field

10W HF/6M/4M/2M/70cm SDR Transceiver

Included with FTX-1:
Field Head (FTX-1)
SBR-52LI 6400mAh Li-ion Battery
DC Power Cable with 2-pin round plug
SSM-75E Hand Microphone
Performance You Can Rely On

The FTX-1 covers a wide frequency range:
30kHz–174MHz and 400MHz–470MHz – covering SWL, FM broadcast, and Air-band.

The FTX-1 supports SSB, CW, AM, FM, and C4FM digital modes, offering true versatility whether you're operating from home, on the move, or in remote locations. Expect up to 9 hours of HF SSB and 8 hours of V/UHF FM operation using the supplied battery (based on a 6-6-48 duty cycle). Charging is easy via USB Type-C PD (45W or greater, 15V 2A).

Key Features:
- Advanced SDR design using high-resolution A/D converter and FPGA (as seen in the FTDX10)
- 32-bit DSP filtering with SHIFT, WIDTH, NOTCH, CONTOUR, APF, DNR, NB
- True Dual-Band Operation including C4FM/C4FM simultaneous receive (V/V, U/U, V/U etc.)
- 3D Spectrum Scope on a bright 4.3" TFT colour touchscreen
- MAG / QMB / PMG Memory Grouping – for smarter scanning and recall
- AMS (Automatic Mode Select) for seamless switching between FM and C4FM
- FT8 "PRESET" mode – pre-configured for digital operations
- Two front-facing speakers for loud, clear audio in the field
- Aluminium die-cast chassis with optimised heat dissipation

Yaesu FTX-1 Optima

100W HF/50MHz VHF/UHF SDR Transceiver
Full Base Station and Field Operation in One Flexible Package

High-performance SDR transceiver covering HF, 50MHz, VHF and UHF, launching end of May 2025. This is the Optima version of the new FTX-1 series, and is supplied complete with the SPA-1 100W RF Power Amplifier for powerful base station operation, while also including a 6400mAh Li-ion battery for field portability. For those focused purely on field operation, the FTX-1 Field is also available.

Key Features:
- 100W Base Station Operation (via included SPA-1 amplifier and external DC supply)
- 6W Field Operation with included SBR-52LI 6400mAh Li-ion battery
- 10W Field Output with external 13.8V DC power supply
- All Mode Coverage: SSB, CW, AM, FM, C4FM Digital
- Wide Receive Coverage: 30kHz–174MHz + 400–470MHz
- Compact Field Head Design: Only W213 x H89 x D55mm
- Build-in Tuner for HF & 6m

Accessories:

SBR-52Li Spare Battery	£169.00
FC-90 HF/6m End-fed wire ATU	£279.95
FC-80 HF 10W Bolt-on Auto-ATU	£239.95
SPG-1 Protection Guard	£29.00
BU-6 Bluetooth Module	£39.95
FGPS-5 GPS Antenna	£29.95
SCF-1 Cooling Fan	£29.95
SPA-1100W 100W HF, 50W (2/70) Amplifier (Included with Optima)	£549.95
MHG-1 Carry Handle	£7.99
Screen Protector	£7.99

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DIgiRig Mobile – digital modes interface

Based on the CM108 audio CODEC, the DigiRig combines Soundcard, Serial CAT interface and PTT Switch. Uses a single USB connection to computer minimising cables. Works with all major OS flavlours. Uses widely supported CP2102 serial interface and CM108 CODEC. Portable activity?

The TopBytes Morse Trainer

A small, battery-powered CW practice unit designed to help you learn and improve both sending and receiving Morse code anywhere, without tying up your radio. Plug in your own straight key or paddle via the 3.5 mm socket and practise real-world CW with instant visual and audio feedback. Developed by Guy at TopBytes and **available exclusively from Martin Lynch & Sons**, the Morse Trainer combines a clear touchscreen interface with powerful firmware that's updated regularly based on user feedback.

JPC-12 Antenna

7-52 MHz vertical antenna - handling 100 Watts SSB. Set up in a few minutes. Very Small pack size. Ideal for Hill-Topping and POTA Activities.

The VGC BHM-79 is a wireless speaker microphone with a built-in Li-Ion battery (1200 mAh) that can be conveniently charged via the integrated USB-C port. It is compatible with the VR-N76 handheld and the radio can also be conveniently switched on and off via the microphone. Also supports IC-705 & ID-52E (Plus) with latest firmware & ICOM mode activated.

The ParaPro EQ20B-DSP is a premium 20W audio enhancer with parametric equalisation, DSP noise cancelling, and Bluetooth connectivity designed to tailor audio precisely to individual hearing needs.

Rig Expert Match

The Rig Expert MATCH Base model is your gateway to professional-grade antenna and cable analysis. Covering 0.1–70 MHz right out of the box, it's the ideal starting point for both hobbyists and seasoned radio operators. With its intuitive interface, vibrant 4.0" colour TFT display, and reliable measurement capabilities, the MATCH Base delivers accurate SWR, return loss, impedance, and more at the push of a button. Upgradeable up tp 500MHz. Perfect for gift for antenna builders

SHARI PiHat Uses a Raspberry Pi. 250 to 500 milliwatts RF output power. Dial up Allstar Nodes, Gateways and Repeaters all over the world. Never suffer silent UHF or VHF bands again. UK HubNet has a huge number of Repeaters and Gateways connected.

Gordon's Expedition to Ireland Part II

Continuing my journey around Ireland, my next destination was Inishturk Island. A cargo ferry from Roonagh Pier was the only method of taking the car to Inishturk Island. Four straps were hooked around the wheels of the car, and it was lifted onto the Cargo ferry. After a smooth trip to Inishturk, the car was deposited on the pier. I took the road to commonage. Unfortunately it was not too long before the road became to narrow to proceed further.

I managed to find a field where I could set up station and operated from Friday through to Sunday. I had a good walk around the Island and on Saturday called into the local restaurant, pub, community centre and pub all housed in the one building. Some very good Irish music made the day.

On Sunday, whilst operating, I got a knock on the window of the car and was invited for breakfast on Monday morning before my departure.

By the 24th of July, I was getting ready for the IOTA contest where I was to work from a Camp site on the beach ay Inis Oirr. Cormac, EI8JCB, organised the use of the Arts Centre for the week which meant that I would not need to bring the generator, fuel although the antennas and poles would be required.

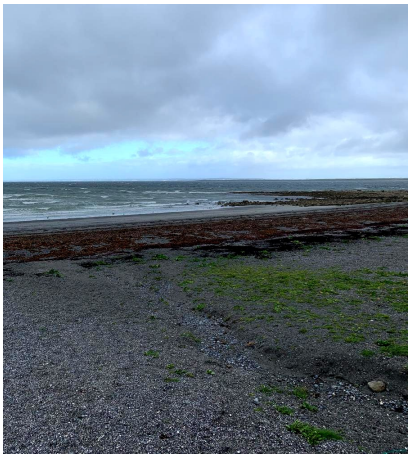
Cormac assisted with transport and putting up the antenna systems.

I could not stay at the ARTS Centre so my campsite was only 10 minutes walk away.

I operated as EJ3VP from EU006. We made 775 contacts giving over 500.000 points. I stayed on until the 31st of July. My next destination was Inisbofin Island.

I could not bring the car over on this occasion so packed the basic station , my tent, 10m mast and 40m dipole. I enquired where the campsite was located and was offered a lift with my equipment.

The hostel was right next to the campsite and I could charge my batteries. There was cooking facilities and a shower here and even food others had brought and left for the guests. During my 3 day stay I made many contacts using the Callsign EJ3VP.



My next destination was the Moycullen hills and then onto Traught beach in Kinvara Co. Galway for an overnight camp.

Doolin was my next destination. I set up stion on the top of a hill overlooking the Fairy Castle. I hadn't been operating for very long when a local Ham invited me to his QTH for a sandwich and coffee. I must point out that the hospitality in Ireland is fantastic.

Gordon's Expedition to Ireland Part II

I spent an enjoyable time recounting my escapades over the last few weeks.

Blackhead lighthouse was not too far a way so I took the opportunity to activate the station from there before travelling on to Loop Head Light house further south. It is perched on the scenic headland of Loop Head peninsula with the Atlantic Ocean 90 metres below. Its was possible to see the both Dingle and Connemara from this point.

My next was the most western point in Ireland—Dunmore Head Bunker—B/EI0038. I set up in the car park fairly close by and had to ensure that the ends of the dipole were elevated well away from the traffic as this was a busy viewing area. Looking below there was a beautiful beach which was a popular spot for holiday makers.

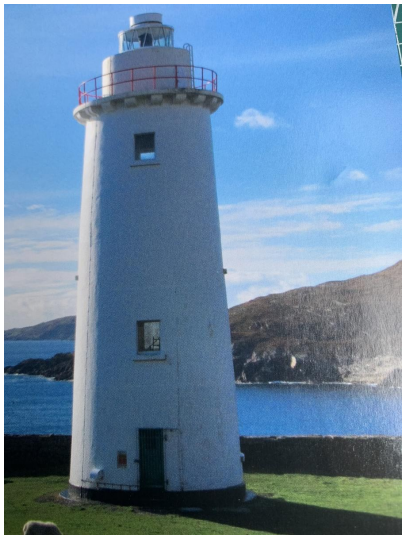
My next port of call was the Derrynasaggart mountains where I managed to drive a good way up the track before the track became too rough By this time I became quite proficient at off-roading. There were magnificent views from here. Plenty of time to operate as well.

My next destination was Dursey Island via Lambs Head.

Dursey Island was a cable car ride so all of the portable gear was packed into the rucksack. I used the RC-12 antenna and steel tape measure for the radials. These ware a lot easier to deploy. After climbing 200ft I found a flat area.

My Lightweight Portable Station

Bere Island was my next destination and it was from here that I intended to participate in Lighthouses on the air. I set out to find the best route to the lighthouse and eventually located a track which would bring me close to the Ardnakinna Lighthouse IRE-003.



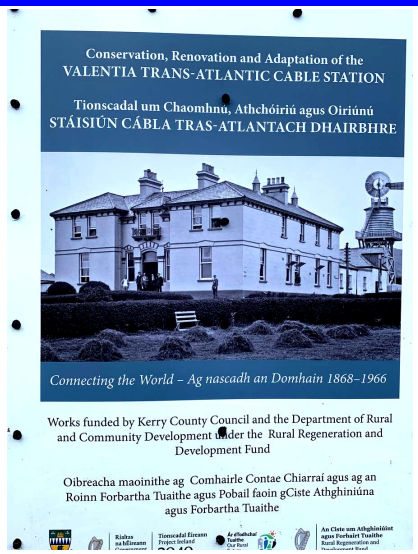
I worked 350 QSOs on Saturday and packed up on Sunday morning as I had an interview on the Bere Island Community Radio with a 20 minute slot to chat about Amateur Radio. As It happened, this extended to 45 minutes when the next guest could not be reached by phone.

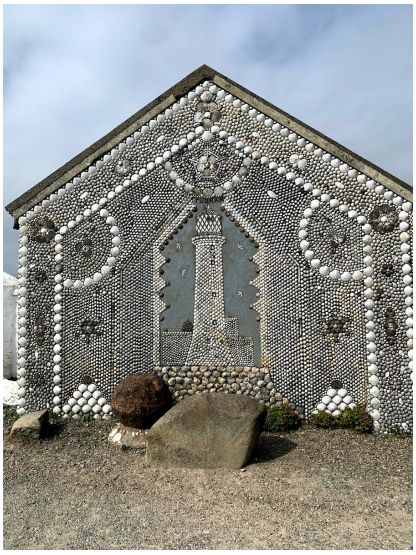
It was time to head back to the mainland to Fenit near Tralee. Seemingly the

Gordon's Expedition to Ireland Part II

Rose of Tralee festival was in full swing so I enjoyed the music and the town full of stalls until 1:30 am

My next destination was Valentia Island and I set up my station just opposite to the location where the first transatlantic cable came in from the New World. In its day the company would have employed 200 CW operators to send messages at £1.00 per letter. 2 YLs showed an interest in what I was doing and I allowed one to send a greeting message to a station in Luton. She was so pleased that she brought me a slice of chocolate cake shortly afterwards. I am always amazed at the hospitality in Ireland.





I moved on to Dungarvon and set up station across the road from a cottage completely decorated with sea shells sourced locally. I travelled to Collenstone and then onto Kilmuckridge where I have an invite to stay full board for a few days. I had the opportunity to set up my station in their kitchen with the antenna pole strapped to the pergola outside. Brett, my host, was keen to learn about Amateur Radio. Following a long discussion I pointed him in the right direction for instruction and obtaining a license.

MY next leg of the adventure was to head across to the Saltee Islands. I read that this could be a wet crossing so made sure that the equipment and laptop were packed in a watertight bag and then into the rucksack. There wasa possibility that I would have to wade ashore. I made the right call as I was the only dry passenger that day. The spray from the sea was something else and then , to cap it all, one had to transfer into a small dinghy half full of water before wading ashore.

I checked with the warden as to whether it would be ok to operate the equipment and got the heads up. I set up my FT-710 and RC-12 antenna with steel tape radials. I managed to have 36 QSOs before it started to rain. I had to cover the gear with my waterproofs. Fortunately, the sun came out and I dried out fairly quickly. Before long I had to pack the station into the rucksack and return to the boat. It was well worth the trip to this Island.

I headed across Ireland to Inisturk South where I was told there was a house for sale. Initially a good idea but then would it be suitable for a 77 year old to live alone on an island as, in 10 years, I might not be able to launch my own boat to the mainland to shop for provisions.

My friend, in Donegal said that there was a house for sale in his area and suggested that I take a look. It was a good location with a 1/2 acres site with a long back garden naturally perfect for antennas even a 160m dipole.

So at this point I headed back to Norwich to raise funds for a new QTH. If all goes to plan, I could be residing in Donegal before Christmas

John took me up for a flight in his light aircraft where we operated aeronautical mobile on 145.500MHz and had 3 QSOs. Next time the operation will be on HF!

I got to see and operate from many areas of Ireland including the North as GI3PXT. Ho know, I may be settled in Ireland by the time the December issue of Ham Radio Ireland is published!

Gordon Higgins - G3PXT / EI3VP
g3pxt1948@gmail.com

EI3CC Christmas Party

Our third Christmas night out as EI3CC and again a fantastic one at that, the venue was Paris Texas in Kilkenny.

Wayne EI7HKB had organized the night and 10 out of 10 for some great ideas, one being the secret Santa where each brought a gift for a male or female and you had to had to draw out of the bag a mystery parcel once all drawn, they were opened at the same time to much laughter and jokes.

This year also saw our largest number of members with the Christmas attire and I have so said we looked a great group full of the Christmas spirit.

Some had traveled from Galway Dublin Wicklow and cork and Waterford for the night and they were not disappointed.

So again well done all for supporting your EI3CC group and looking forward to a great New Year.

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Testimonial - Mr. B Hiley
"The DESKTOP speaker is great, audio is crisp and clear, brilliant!"

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01444 870333

My name is Adam Sweeney, and in 2026 I plan to be the youngest Irish person to summit Mount Everest, the tallest mountain in the world at the age of 22, with the current youngest being 26.

In February of this year I completed my first big mountain - the highest mountain in South America, Aconcagua standing at 6961m in The Andes. With a success rate of only 30% I was delighted to make it to the summit with no problems with fitness, skill, or altitude sickness. As far as I am aware, at 20 years of age, I am the youngest Irish person to summit Aconcagua, but I could be proved wrong with that fact!!

Summitting Aconcagua in the Argentinian Andes, my first 7 summit, has given me the confidence to move on with my dream.

In November 2024 I plan to climb Ama Dablam with an Irish Team in Nepal. At 6,812 meters which is slightly lower than Aconcagua but it is a step up in technicality and a natural training ground for Everest.

In May 2025, I'll be going to Alaska to tackle Denali, the highest mountain in North America. The approach to Denali is a challenge in itself, where I will have to haul my expedition gear on a sled to Base Camp, taking 3-4 days. The summit attempt itself will take 21 days, with time taken acclimatising to the mountain altitude, before an assault to the top which stands at 6190m. This is a fully self-sufficient trip and a great mental test before Everest.

With your support, we can create human history and be the youngest Irish person ever to summit Everest, the worlds highest mountain.

Thank you ,
Adam Sweeney

You can help by clicking on the link below or by copy and pasting the link into your browser and donating to my Go Fund Me page

https://www.gofundme.com/f/adam-become-the-youngest-irish-person-to-summit-everestfbclid=PAZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAaZxMo4nC-TUp0397g_vjJK24WSq1nNqSC6W-egfI0HzXYIQTHxu80UjcXk_aem_i7TyCaN4SJcFBR3vkpmCLQ

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My business is a comprehensive repair facility now based for the last 6 years in South Wales. I have a country wide client base and special thanks to all my customers so far for that. In the last 6 years I have repaired and serviced somewhere in the region of 2000 radios varying from military Clansman to some of the lates Amateur radio and CB equipment. As a time served engineer for the last 40 years, I have a good knowledge base from VLF to microwave equipment solid state and valved. To new and old clients, I would like to thank you for your support and trust in my service.

Email: dave.g4tiw@hotmail.co.uk
Mobile: 0044 7785294926
(Monday to Friday Business Hours: 9 - 6pm)

Summits on the Air is an amateur radio awards scheme. To participate in this scheme you do not become a "member", there are no dues to be paid or membership cards to be issued. You can join in straight away! Just go to SOTAwatch to see what is happening right now in SOTA. To post to SOTA facilities you will need to register an account and then you will be able to add alerts and spots on SOTAwatch (which will likely help a lot, if you plan to activate) and upload your chases or activations to the SOTA database. There is no charge for registering. The SOTA Reflector uses a separate user account system; so to join in with discussions there simply click on the "Sign Up" button. We recommend that you save a copy of your passwords in a safe place - every week we have to help people who have forgotten their passwords!

You can then Chase or Activate when you feel like it - SOTA is global, activations can take place throughout the 24 hours of the day. Once you transfer your log to the database there is a permanent record and you can check your entries against those of the stations that you contacted, and keep track of your progress towards awards. Later you might wish to purchase awards, trophies or goods from our on-line shop. These purchases and the occasional donation are the means of financing the SOTA facilities.

More information:

https://www.irts.ie/dnloads/sota.pdf

https://www.sota.org.uk/

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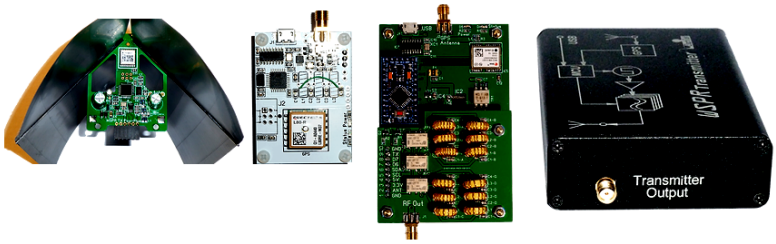

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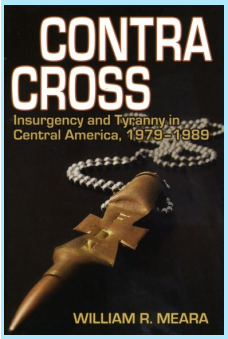
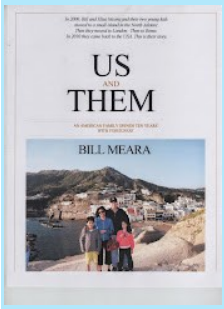


A journey through the Central American wars of the 1980s as seen through the eyes of a young American officer who worked on both sides of insurgency in the region: In El Salvador Bill Meara supported efforts to defeat insurgents; with Nicaraguans he worked to keep an insurgency alive. One of very few Americans to see both sides up close, he takes readers into his world as an advisor struggling with cultural differences and human rights violations while trying to stay alive in murderous El Salvador. We join him on dangerous helicopter rides into contra base camps on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border and into a U.S. Embassy under attack. From Special Forces school at Ft. Bragg to Joan Baez's back-stage party in Managua to a contra POW camp deep in the jungle, we get a taste of Meara's world up close.



What happens if you take an American family and send them to Europe for ten years? In the summer of 2000, Bill and Elisa Meara, accompanied by 2 year-old Billy and 4 month-old Maria, left their home in the suburbs of Washington, D.C. and moved to the Azores. There they experienced the highs and lows of diplomatic life on a small distant island. After three years in the Azores, they spent four years London and three years in Rome. Overseas they lived in two houses and two apartments, went to five schools, used four different health care systems, experienced one earthquake, 9-11, the terrorist attack on London, tea with the Queen, the election of Barack Obama… and all the ordinary things that families go through. They lived mostly with the locals, learned Portuguese, Italian, and a bit of Cockney, and made many friends (foreign friends!) They returned to the United States in 2010 with a changed view of the world. This is their story

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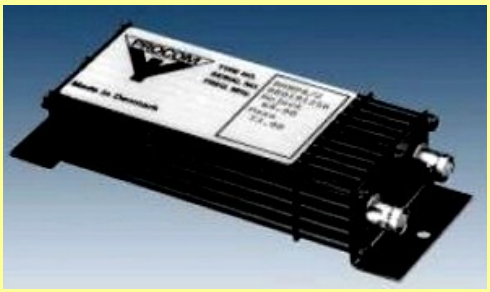

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DXPATROL

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£169.96 See: HamRadio.co.uk/QO100

DX Patrol Full Duplex QO-100 Ground Station 2.0

A high-performance, all-in-one transverter system designed for precise and stable satellite communication via Es'hail-2 / QO-100. Compact yet powerful, it combines professional engineering, advanced signal control, and convenient operation in a single unit. This updated 2.0 version introduces a GPS-locked 10MHz internal reference and an improved NXP BLP9G0722-20G amplifier stage, offering greater efficiency, stability, and output power.

£935.95 See: HamRadio.co.uk/QO100GS

DX Patrol QO-100 Upconverter

A precision-engineered transmitter designed for stable, accurate uplink to the QO-100 (Es'hail-2) satellite. Compact, efficient, and exceptionally clean in performance, it offers reliable conversion from various IF frequencies to the 2.4GHz transmit band, making it an excellent choice for any serious QO-100 ground station setup.

£129.95 See: www.HamRadio.co.uk/QO100UC

DX Patrol QO-100 Down Converter

A high-stability receiver designed for precise and reliable monitoring of the QO-100 (Es'hail-2) narrowband transponder. Compact and efficient, it provides excellent frequency accuracy, gain control, and signal clarity straight out of the box. The latest "Blue" model, issued after 20 October 2019, supports four selectable intermediate frequencies: 28.550MHz, 144.550MHz, 432.550MHz and 1296.550MHz, allowing seamless integration with a wide range of amateur transceivers.

DX Patrol 2.4GHz 1W Booster

A compact, high-quality power amplifier designed to boost low-power signals from SDRs such as the ADALM-Pluto, LimeSDR, or similar devices. Providing a clean 12dB gain across the 2300–2500MHz band, it delivers up to +30dBm (1W) of RF output power, making it ideal as a driver stage for QO-100 uplink systems or other 2.4GHz applications.

£58.96 See: HamRadio.co.uk/QO100B

DX Patrol QO-100 Modified LNB

A precision-modified low noise block downconverter designed specifically for reliable reception of the QO-100 (Es'hail-2) satellite. Built with a 25MHz local oscillator, it delivers exceptional frequency stability and accuracy, ensuring clear, distortion-free signals when paired with a suitable local oscillator injection source. Designed for either vertical or horizontal polarisation, this LNB is fully compatible with DX Patrol's helix antennas and other 2.4GHz feed systems making it ideal for serious satellite operators seeking dependable QO-100 reception.

£33.95 See: HamRadio.co.uk/QO100LNB

Helix High Performance QO-100

4 Turns Helix makes it very adaptable to any kind of dish. High efficiency over a very wide band with low VSWR, perfect circular polarisation and simplicity to install in any dish,makes it one of the favourite types of feeds for Space communications. (LMB not included).

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£299.00 A full range of Armoloq frames can be found at HamRadio.co.uk/Armoloq

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£196.96 See: HamRadio.co.uk/CPC891

JCASE-XKI4, Waterproof Case 4-in-1 Transceiver Case

for X6100, KX2, KX3 & IC-705, This state-of-the-art case provides an exceptional level of protection, ensuring your valuable equipment remains safe from the elements.

£189.95 See: HamRadio.co.uk/XK14

Windcamp Pota/Sota Radio Case

The Windcamp Pota/Sota Radio Case is an essential accessory for amateur radio enthusiasts who value portability and protection. Designed specifically for portable operations, this case ensures that your radio gear is safeguarded against the elements while remaining lightweight and easy to carry.

£65.99 See: HamRadio.co.uk/PSR

Xiegu VK-5 Straight CW Key

A high-quality straight key built for amateur radio operators who value precision, reliability, and compact design. Milled from solid aluminium and copper using CNC machining.

£56.95 See: HamRadio.co.uk/VX5

Xiegu VK-6 Iambic Paddle

Engineered for serious CW enthusiasts, the Xiegu VK-6 is a high-performance dual-paddle Morse key designed for precision, efficiency, and comfort. Built on a robust CNC-machined aluminium and copper chassis, it combines exceptional durability with a refined, professional finish.

£89.95 See: HamRadio.co.uk/VK6

Moxon for 20m Vertical Wire Antenna Kit

A simple yet highly effective solution for HF operation on the 20m band. Unlike traditional horizontal Moxon antennas, this version is designed to be installed vertically, giving it a low take-off angle and strong directional performance - ideal for long-distance DX contacts.
Lightweight and easy to deploy, the antenna can be suspended between two fibreglass masts or hung from a suitable support such as a tree. With no heavy metalwork involved, it's perfect for both portable use and semi-permanent installations.

£59.95 See: HamRadio.co.uk/PM20M

Tecsun AN-48X Active Indoor Loop Antenna Kit

Boost your radio's performance with this versatile active loop antenna, designed to dramatically improve reception across Longwave (120–400kHz), Medium Wave (520–1700kHz), and Shortwave (3.5–20MHz) bands. Whether you're tuning in from a TECSUN desktop model like the S-2000 or a portable favourite like the PL-990 or PL-880, the AN-48X adapts effortlessly with its comprehensive connection options and clever design.
The Tecsun AN-48X is your go-to indoor solution for stronger, clearer reception across the bands.

£39.95 See: HamRadio.co.uk/AN48X

Heavy Duty Cup Holder Mount For Yaesu FTX-1 Icom IC-705, IC-7100

Designed to hold heavier control heads. The base expands out to 3.5". The mount is 9" in height, but can be adjusted using the swivel system. The mount is built around Rams 1" ball system. So it will swivel into just about any position you need it to. It comes with a 1/4 x 20 bolt that will thread directly into the Yaesu FTX-1, Icom IC-705 or Icom IC-7100 control head.

£49.96 See: HamRadio.co.uk/HDC

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the team at ML&S

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