Ham Radio Ireland

Ag freastal ar thraidisiún agus ar spiorad an raidió amaitéarach

Editor: *Steve Wright - EI5DD* *wright14@gmail.com* Vol. 4 Issue 03 October 2026



HAM RADIO IRELAND

Ham Radio Ireland is 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 understand that not all of the Radio Experimenters are members of the National Society and therefore have no access to an Irish based radio Publication covering Amateur Radio, CB and PMR 446.

We endeavour to produce items geared towards home construction and are always seeking authors who are active in this area.

Our aim is to promote all aspects of our hobby. We encourage participation with youth programs and scouting. Portable activity and home built equipment for same is another of our favourite topics

More recently with the "*regime change*" in the IRTS, it has been possible to receive recognition and a working relationship with inclusivity. We are delighted to receive publicity through the IRTS Radio News and, as a result we are happy to reciprocate by publicising their events such as the Ham Fest, AGM and Rallies etc.

We NOT in competion with the IRTS as Echo Ireland specifically deals with the affairs of the IRTS, their News and Events and is directed towards IRTS members.

We are always seeking material for the Magazine to do give it a thought even if you have never written before. Everyone has to start somewhere why not here?

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

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News and Events

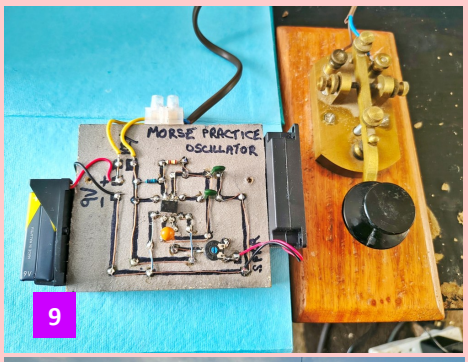
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Submitting Items for This Magazine

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

Wayne EI8HQB
With the Vintage equipment display at the Stradbally Steam Rally

Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, those of Carrion Press, Ham Radio Ireland or EI3CC

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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

EURA
EUROPEAN RADIO AMATEURS' ORGANIZATION

News and Forthcoming Events Planning

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

EURA European Radio Amateurs' Organization

the open global radio amateurs community

20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

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.

EURAO Public Liability Insurance

The purpose of this insurance, with a coverage of 9.000.000 EUR, is to guarantee the pecuniary consequences of the civil liability incumbent on the insured due to consequential bodily, material and immaterial damage caused to third parties as a result of their radio amateur activities, including travel, and events organized by the subscriber, including assembly and disassembly operations.
This means, translated to our activity, a plus of relief when we do radio outside our QTH, either on the beach, in the countryside, in a park or in the mountains, as in the case of field days or SOTA.
EURAO also provides coverage in an urban environment, such as in a square, in a schoolyard or inside a classroom in a workshop with students, or with scouts in their venue or campground.
In addition to covering contingencies, this insurance is useful to obtain authorization to carry out activities in the public space, which is mandatory in some countries.
The coverage of this insurance is worldwide, with some limitations for the USA and Canada. More Info: https://www.eurao.org/en/node/1130



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 Tucson 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.

News and Forthcoming Events Planning

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





World Space Week is an international celebration of science and technology, and their contribution to the betterment of the human condition.

The United Nations General Assembly declared in 1999 that World Space Week will be held each year from October 4-10.

These dates commemorate two events:

October 4, 1957: Launch of the first human-made Earth satellite, Sputnik 1, thus opening the way for space exploration

October 10, 1967: The signing of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activites of States in the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies.

World Space Week consists of space education and outreach events held by space agencies, aerospace companies, schools, planetaria, museums, and astronomy clubs around the world in a common timeframe. These synchronized space events attract greater public and media attention.

This year's theme is Rocket Revolution which focuses on the rapid transformation of Space Launch.

Have you thought how you or your club could get involved?

Perhaps you could organise a special event station for the occasion. This could incorporate **QO-100 operation** and also **operation of Low Orbit Satellites.** A display of the satellite tracking program would be impressive. Maybe organise a Space themed club night.

There are many resources available on the web to support this. Patrick Wood, 2E0IFB has provided a series of slides which covers an introduction to the operation of Low Orbit satellites and these can be downloaded from: https://rsgb.org/main/outreach/world-space-week/wsw-how-can-i-get-involved/



For those into island chasing or portable operating, ***GMFF*** has put together a new program called the Islands of the Republic of Ireland Award (IRIA). It looks like a solid excuse to get out with the portable gear this summer or to hunt for some new references from the home shack. The program is split into two sides:
Activators: You need to operate strictly from the land on the island (maritime mobile doesn't count) and log at least 50 QSOs for it to be a valid activation.
Chasers: You just need confirmed contacts with the stations that are out activating the islands. The certificates are awarded in increments of 10, running from 10 all the way up to 100 different islands. If you want to see if any of your past logs count, or if you're looking to plan a trip out to the coast soon, you can find the official reference list and the rest of the rules here:https://gmff.uk/ Check out e site for many more new awards of interest may be found on this site.



News and Forthcoming Events Planning

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** at regular intervals throughout the year. 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

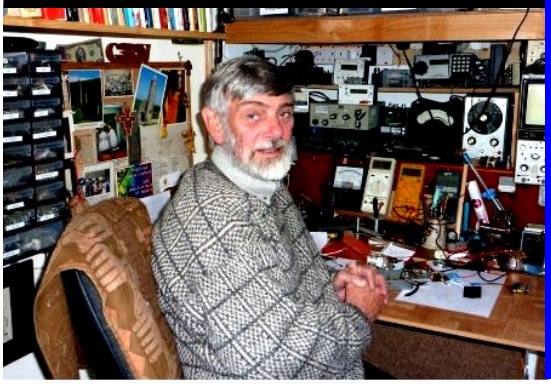
World CB, Ham Radio News and Updates



World CB, Ham Radio & Updates is a a weekly "Vox Populi" broadcast hosted on Facebook and the Zello ***Southern Ireland Radio Room.*** by Dave (Delta Mike) The Broadcast commences at 9pm each Sunday evening and continues on until late**.** All are welcomed to call in via the Southern Ireland Radio Room and can place comment on the Facebook video broadcast. Each week there is a buy and sell for second hand equipment and this is followed by news coverage of activities and rallies both at home and abroad. Special guests from both the Ham Radio and CB fraternity feature each week discussing radio operations in their own clubs and their part of the world. In addition those on the Zello room have an opportunity to inform us of activities in their areas. Dave regularly reviews stories featured in Ham Radio Ireland and has been a supporter of Ham Radio Ireland since it was published. EI3CC regularly call in with updates on their activities and the editor of Ham Radio Ireland also joins the broadcast to answer any questions about the publication, Feel fee to join us.



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.

News and Forthcoming Events Planning





DECEMBER YOTA MONTH

December is YOTA month and EI3CC will be on the air with the callsign EI3YOTA. YOTA month is a special initiative to encourage young radio amateurs to take to the airwaves. This will provide an excellent opportunity to showcase all facets of the hobby to Schools, colleges, clubs, youth groups.

145 ALIVE

145 Alive focuses on increasing activity on the 2metre band FM and SSB and encourages operators from around the world to register their nets. Track announcements on the 145 Alive Facebook page and check into Mayo VHF Group activities. The next event will run from 12 pm - 3pm on the 10th of October

IRTS AGM & RALLY 2027

Shannon Basin Radio Club is hosting the 2027 IRTS AGM Weekend. It will take place in the Athlone Springs Hotel, Co. Roscommon over the weekend of the 24th and 25th of April 2027. Radio-related activities will take place on the Saturday afternoon which will be followed by the IRTS Gala Dinner that night. The Shannon Basin Radio Club rally will then commence on the Sunday morning. The rally will then be followed by the IRTS 2027 AGM which will take place on Sunday afternoon April 25th. Applications for trader and club tables for the rally are now open. Please email admin@sbrc.ie for more information. Further details about the weekend's event will be announced over the coming weeks.

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN RADIO AMATEURS AND LISTENERS

Churches and Chapels on the Air
C.H.O.T.A. 2026



THIS CERTIFICATE
IS AWARDED TO
EI3HRI



for having worked 8 or more CHOTA stations, operated by WACRAL members

Alistair 2E0TGF Awards Manager

John G3XYF C0-Founder

2026 Events & Activities Planner

Space Week	4th - 10th October
JOTA Scouts on the Air	16th - 18th October
Kildare ARC Buy & Sell	18th October
Bush Valley ARC RALLY	1st November
YOTA Month	December
2027	
2027 IRTS AGM & Rally	24th - 25th April '27

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 Recreation Club, Aircraft Park, Hollywood 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



Tidal DXing

TIDAL DXING - This is taking advantage of using surrounding rising waters of High Tides that is well close to your Mobile or Portable spot by the sea. Basic rules the tide must be at least 5m at its peak and higher still the better and must be close to it and then you can run a counter poise wire into the water. The water must be sea water. Fresh water would not yield the same affect.

I have had a fair amount of experience of Tidal Dxing but it started for me back in 1983. It was FM CB time, and my friend went down to Frinton on Sea, located on the Sea wall at a high tide of about 5.5M. He was on his crunch box, a Honda C90 M/C, using a DV27 and FM CB radio and he found out about tidal DXing for the first time.

The following High tide was a couple weeks away. BUT was 7m+ and went with him to same location. With myself on a Crunch box but running a DX 27 Fire stick and a FM CB and an Astatic tear drop mic running only 4 watts. The tide was so high it was coming up through the drain points of the sea wall, and we stood in water for a short time. Mainly noted was the hour before the peak of tide to the hour past peak of tide was the peak of what you could work let alone hear was bloody amazing. We were reaching up and down the coast towards south end South coast of Kent and into Yorkshire coast station. NOTE it was mainly Coastal stations we were talking too as well into Holland across the North Sea. But at one hour past the peak of high tide it switched off and went back to working Local stations around Essex and Suffolk received me.



Slaughden Quay Suffolk coastline

We had a visit from a local radio ham wondering what we were up too. Best laugh we knew of another good high tide to come in next couple of days, and he joined us with a tripod and a VHF 2m stick. At end of secession of that two-hour window, he even was even amazed how it switched on and off at said times and even he was reaching places not normally reached both SSB and FM modes on 144mhz due to the high tide.

But many years later, when I was on 11m SSB I found a good point at near Adlebrugh at the tower on the sea wall. Then using a President Lincoln 40w and a Antron 99 on top of a 20ft telescopic pole and a 3 element Yagi beam. We had a very high tide that morning and even the excess road that ducked down behind the tower was under water, tech I was cut off only way out of there was back along main sea wall on foot. Had to await a good hour before tide dropped low enough to escape. I was nigh on an island with only a causeway out of the place.

I was reaching stupid places around world mainly east wards note and a German station came on telling me I had a NZ station calling me. Could not hear him on the beam, but was loud on the vertical, also a QSO took place talking to him on the horizontal beam – he could not hear me on the vertical, and I received him on the Vertical but could not hear him on the horizontal beam - seemed very strange. One again an hour after the tide and peaked the skip was gone.

Now I did visit a guy in Brightlingsea in a mobile that parked on the causeway next to water with simple 5/8wave whip using SSB on 11m and ran a 6mm wire into the tidal rising waters and in awe of what he was working with 100w of his vertical.

But after doing this a few times of Tidal Dxing, I did an experiment. I had two friends follow me about band. One was 5 miles inland and the other was 14 miles in land from my coastal location. Tide came up made many contacts, station No1 at 5 miles in land could only hear let alone only work HALF of what I was doing and the other station further in land could only hear a half of what he could hear. They also noted the 1 hour rule prior and after the peak of tides.

Yet in recent years I had a Motor cycle Portable on my FJ1200 M/C and went down to the estuary of the Tamar River on where tide was coming in and almost covering the Quay I was sitting on. Running a FT450 10w and a 1/4w vertical for 40m with 3 counter poise wires dropped into the incoming tidal waters. The take-off was at a very low point next to Tamar bridge with a bloody great hill behind me. Again, 1 hour prior and after the tide peak, I cracked out on 40m and 20m bands in SSB. Well surprised on where I was reaching and reports I was getting as well. The river was about a good mile or too from the sea as well.

Give it ago but do remember don't place yourself in danger and the tide must be higher than 5m tide. Perhaps try what couple guys did couple years ago - reach an island off Essex coast via kayaks and park up on island knowing the tide would nearly cover it and even they were amazed at that 2 hour window.

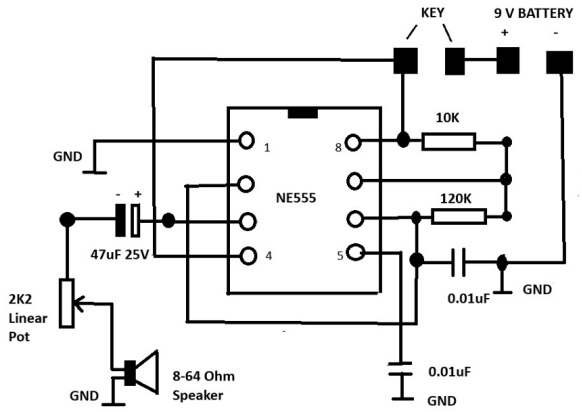
Now you know why Marine mobiles put out such a good signal cause there surrounded by a dirty great sea plane of salt water.

Karl - 2E0FEH
freebirds658@aol.com

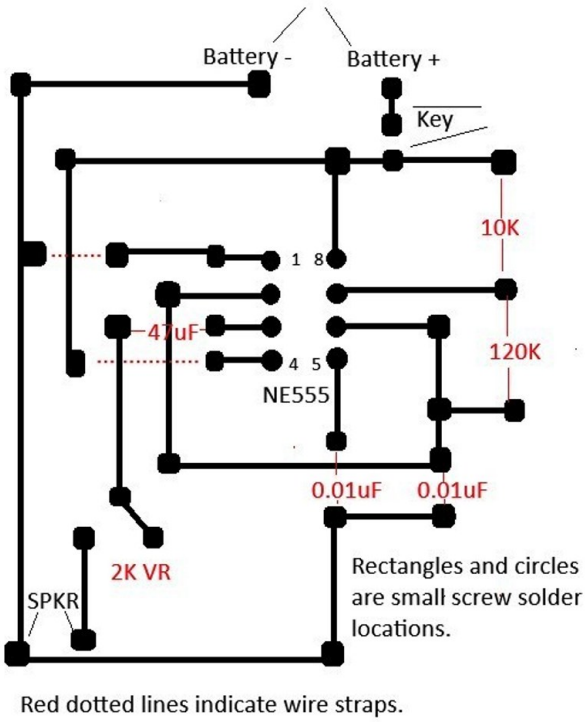
A Simple Homebrew Morse Practice Oscillator

Relatively recently, ComReg dispensed with the requirement of having to use a straight key for the 5 wpm morse code test in Ireland. While most modern rigs have built-in memory keyers, it's nice to use the traditional brass-pounder from time to time to retain this manual skill.

This home-brew project describes the construction of an inexpensive, simple morse practice oscillator. It's based on the ubiquitous NE555 eight-pin timer chip, which has been around for over fifty years now. Aside from the chip itself, the circuit uses just three resistors, three capacitors, a loudspeaker and a 9v battery box. Using the components specified, in the schematic diagram, results in a reasonably pleasant 50% duty cycle square-wave tone of around 600Hz.



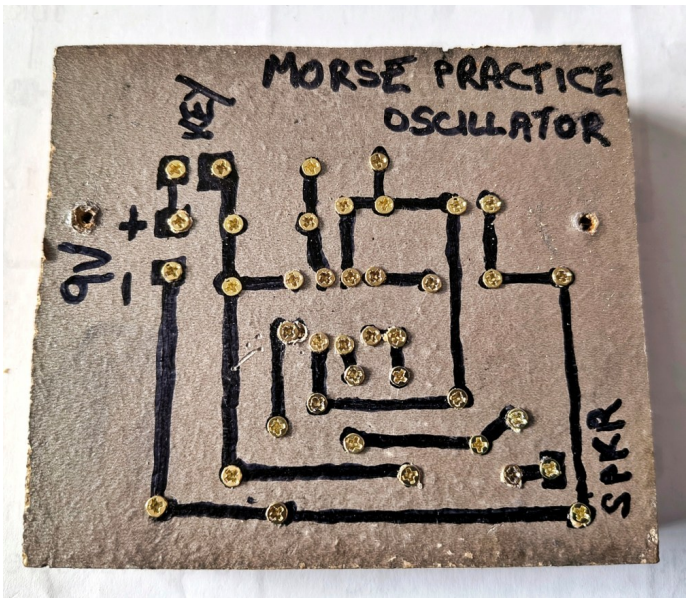
Schematic Diagram of Morse Practice Oscillator



Red dotted lines indicate wire straps.

Component Layout Plan

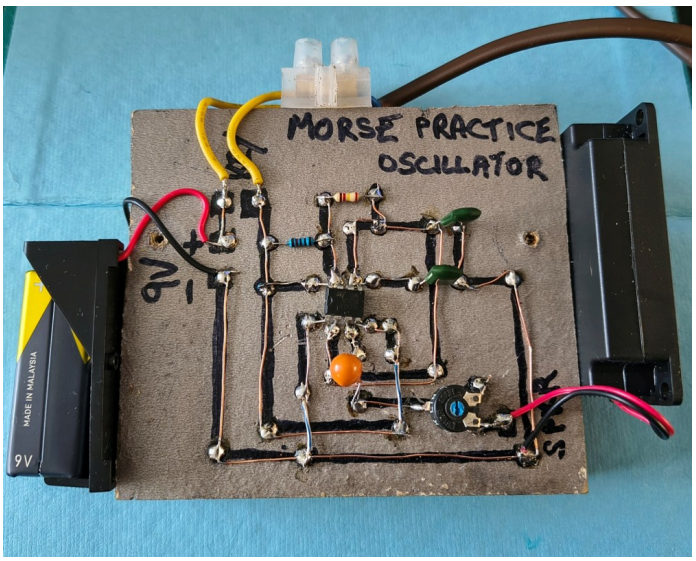
To keep things simple, I used a small off-cut of wood as a base for the project, with sub-miniature brass screws (from Amazon) as solder terminals for the components and the point to point wiring. My first task was to sketch a layout plan by referring to the schematic diagram. I tried to avoid wire straps, but I found this unavoidable at two locations (Pins 1 & 4).



Circuit Traces with Screws Inserted

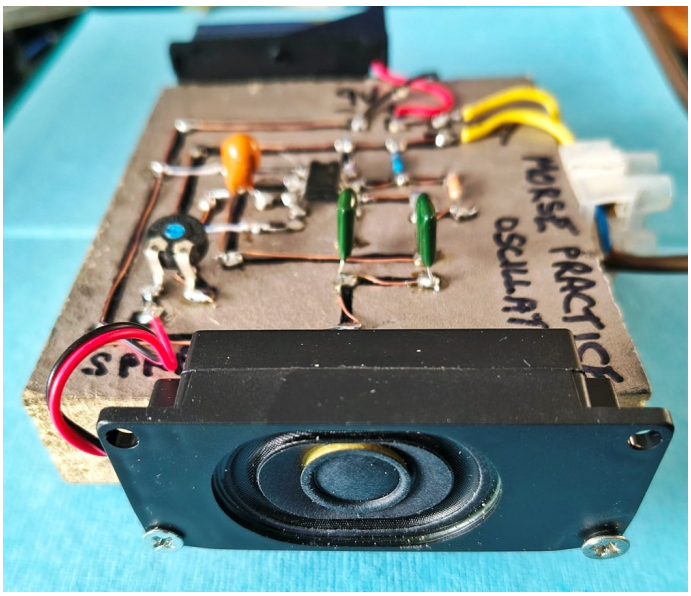
I then used a permanent black marker to transfer the layout design onto the wooden base. The miniature wood screws were then inserted at the appropriate locations, flush with the surface. Tinning the screw-heads with solder in advance, made it easy to connect the components and the wiring.

Placing the small screws for the pins of the NE555 chip was perhaps the only slightly difficult part. I had to take great care to ensure that there were no short circuits between adjacent screw heads. Carefully splaying the NE555 pins slightly apart gave a little more leeway. Once this was done, I double checked with my multimeter, when the chip was soldered in place.

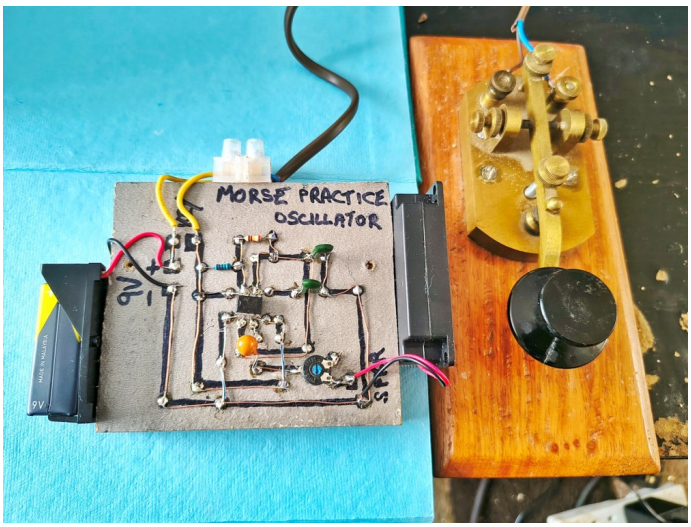


Completed Project

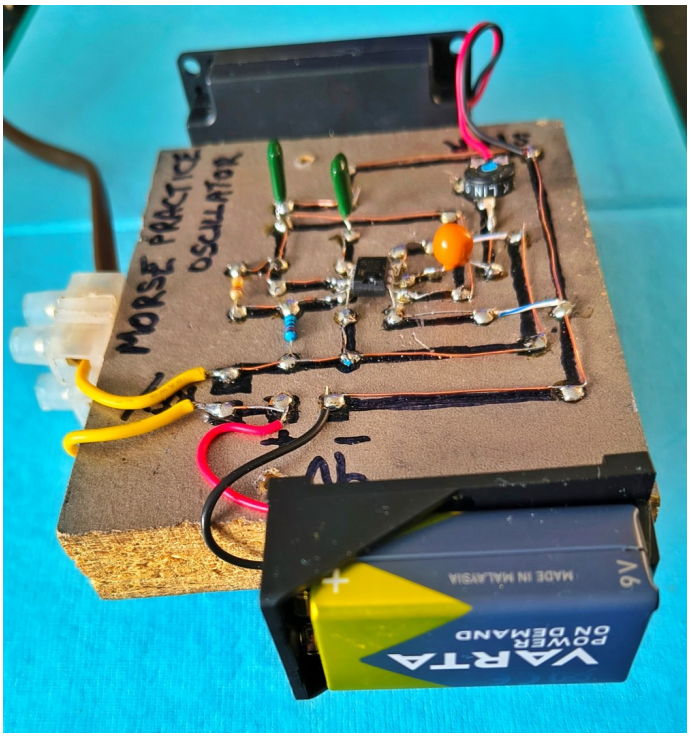
A Simple Homebrew Morse Practice Oscillator



Miniature Speaker Fitted



Ready for Testing



Battery Box Fitted

The output tone is a square wave, and I was considering adding an audio filter to round off the sharp edges. However, once the volume level was reduced, the tone sounded quite acceptable. Replacing the 120K resistor with one of a lower value results in an increase in the output frequency and of course vice versa. This can be experimented with, if the operator prefers a different tone.

I used this method of construction for simplicity, clarity, and ease of replication. I am quite pleased and satisfied with the appearance and performance of the oscillator.

I hope that I have covered all aspects of this project in this article. However, if you would like to contact me regarding any aspects of the construction, you can email me direct. ei5emtony@gmail.com

You can also see some of my other homebrew projects on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@ei5em

List of Components

NE555 timer chip
Mini 8 Ohm speaker
9V battery holder
Miniature brass screws
Skeleton preset potentiometer 2K
47uF 16v electrolytic capacitor
10K 0.25W resistor
120K 0.25W resistor
2 x 0.01uF miniature capacitors (103)
Hookup wire
Block of wood for layout
Twin block connector (for key)



Tony Breathnach EI5EM
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Chasing Contacts in the Wild

My journey into amateur radio began in 2022, when I earned my VU3 restricted-grade licence. A year later, in 2023, I upgraded to a VU2 General grade licence — and that upgrade changed everything about how I practiced the hobby. With HF privileges finally in hand, I stopped thinking of radio as something confined to a shack and started thinking of it as something to carry into the field. Since then, forests, national parks, and wildlife sanctuaries across India have become my regular operating desk.

Why Out Doors

There is a particular kind of satisfaction in pulling a radio, a battery, and a length of wire out of a backpack in the middle of a forest and turning it into a working HF station within minutes. Parks on the Air (POTA) gave that instinct a structure and a purpose. For anyone who hasn't come across it, POTA is a global activity that encourages hams to operate from designated parks, forests, and protected areas — you can browse parks, log activations, and track your progress at https://pota.app/

Every activation is a small expedition: scout a legal, accessible spot inside a park boundary, set up an antenna between two trees or on a mast, get ten contacts in the log to qualify the activation, and pack out exactly as you came in. It combines the technical discipline of station-building with the simple pleasure of being outdoors, and it has taken me to places I would never have visited just to go hiking.





Sunset activation — station set up and ready to make contacts

The Log So Far

As of this writing, my POTA account (callsign VU2UCR) shows 46 activations, starting in March 2024 and continuing right up to this month. The spread of locations tells its own story about the hobby's reach. My earliest activations were in Karnataka's forest belt — Biligiri Ranganatha Swamy Temple (BRT) Wildlife Reserve, Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, and Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary — all activated within a few days of each other in March 2024. Later that year I travelled further afield to Tamil Nadu's Mudumalai National Park, and then to central India for a run of activations at Satpura and Pench National Parks in Madhya Pradesh, the latter producing one of my best single-day contact counts.

Bandipur National Park, close to home in Karnataka, has become something of a regular haunt — I have returned to it again and again, refining my setup with each visit and using it to test new gear before taking it further afield. From there, the log expands outward: Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala, Manali Wildlife Sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh, and most recently a pair of high-altitude activations in Ladakh — Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary and the Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) Wildlife Sanctuary, the latter set up on a river bed at roughly 14,500 feet above mean sea level. Operating HF at that altitude, in thin air and unpredictable weather, is a completely different discipline from a quiet forest afternoon in Karnataka, and it has taught me as much about equipment reliability as it has about propagation.



Setting up on a river bed in the Karakoram (Nubra Shyok) Wildlife Sanctuary, Ladakh — approximately 14,500 feet above MSL.

Every one of these activations has been logged in Phone (SSB) mode, and single sessions have ranged from a lean ten contacts — just enough to qualify — up to nearly thirty in a good opening.

Along the way I have also picked up several POTA recognition awards for activating during the unsociable hours — early mornings before sunrise and late nights — when propagation is often at its most interesting and the parks are at their quietest.



Set up on a rocky outcrop with a QO-100 satellite dish alongside the HF station

Gear That Travels Well

My station has evolved along with my ambitions. I started with the Yaesu FT-891, which remains one of my favourites for field work: a full 100-watt HF radio in a compact, rugged chassis that survives being strapped to a backpack and set up on a rock or a tailgate. As I began carrying more gear and experimenting with different setups, I added the Yaesu FT-710 and the FTX-1 Optima to the rotation, both of which offer a nice balance of performance and portability for park-to-park operating.



The QRP kit: Icom IC-705 paired with a DL2MAN transceiver module, packed for travel

For the days I want to go lighter and lean into QRP operating, I carry the Icom IC-705, the FTX-1 in low-power mode, and a DL2MAN QRP transceiver — each of these turns an activation into a genuine challenge, coaxing contacts out of just a few watts. Power comes from lithium-ion battery packs ranging from 20 Ah to 50 Ah, sized to thelength and demands of the trip.



Dipole antenna up on a tripod mast for an activation on open ground

What Keeps Me Coming Back

Every activation is a small exercise in problem-solving: read the terrain, find a legal and practical operating spot, get an antenna into the air with whatever trees, rocks, or mast sections are available, and make the radio work reliably on battery power for the duration of the session. No two parks present the same set of constraints, and that variety is what keeps the hobby interesting activation after activation.

There is also something valuable about carrying a radio into wildlife sanctuaries and national parks — spaces that exist specifically because they are wild and undeveloped. Every activation is a reminder to operate lightly: no permanent structures, no disturbance to habitat, and full respect for park regulations. It has made me a more careful and considerate operator, both technically and environmentally. Operating from inside these reserves also means the wildlife occasionally shows up to supervise — elephants and wild boar wandering past the antenna at Masinagudi, on the edge of Mudumalai National Park, have both made memorable appearances mid-activation.



2024's first field activation — company from the local residents at Masinagudi, Mudumalai National Park (IN-0085

Looking Ahead

With 46 activations logged in a little over two years, I have no plans to slow down. There are entire states and

Chasing Contacts in the Wild



POTA on two wheels — a motorcycle-supported activation at sunset in the Koli Hills, Tamil Nadu.

union territories I have yet to activate, and the mountains of Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh in particular have opened my eyes to how much more challenging — and rewarding — high-altitude field operating can be compared to the forests closer home in Karnataka.

If you hold a licence and haven't tried POTA yet, I



World Radio Day activation, Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu

would encourage you to give it a shot. You don't need a big station or an elaborate antenna farm — a compact HF radio, a lightweight antenna, and a battery pack are enough to get started. Listen for VU2UCR calling CQ POTA from a park near you — I would love to work you from the field. I also film and post most of my activations on my YouTube channel, harisriramaiah, if you'd like to see the setups, the terrain, and the contacts in action.

Hari, VU2UCR
hari@sanky.com

Bridging Barriers: The Power of the Disability Net



In the vibrant world of amateur radio, the airwaves act as a great equaliser. Yet, for many operators facing physical or sensory challenges, the hobby can sometimes present unique, frustrating barriers. Providing a vital lifeline and a warm community, the weekly Disability Net has become a beacon for hams seeking connection, support, and practical solutions.

Hosted by Kelvin, M0AID, from his shack in Taunton, Somerset, this net is a testament to the inclusive spirit of our hobby. Kelvin serves as the net controller, guiding the discussion and ensuring that every voice is heard - even if, occasionally, we have to pause while someone retrieves a dropped microphone or untangles a lead that seems to have a mind of its own.

The main net convenes on Friday evenings, starting at 19:00. When conditions allow, the net can be found anywhere in the SSB section of the 40-meter band, depending on where we can squeeze in without causing an international incident. If propagation is poor, the net shifts to the 80-meter band, operating in or around 3.743 MHz

Additionally, for those available during the week, a smaller, shorter version of the net meets on Wednesday afternoons at 14:00 on 40metres, frequency 7.103 MHz.

The purpose of the net is simple but profound: to provide a space for anyone living with a disability to connect. Whether you are visually impaired, managing issues with limb mobility, or navigating any other health-related challenge, you will find a welcoming group ready to listen

Each week, the net sees a robust turnout, often drawing 20 to 30 operators from across the UK & Ireland. These gatherings are much more than a routine check-in; they are collaborative problem-solving sessions. Participants share advice on adaptive equipment, ergonomic shack setups, or creative workarounds—like the time we figured out how to operate a rotator with a foot switch because someone had their hands full with a well-earned cup of tea. If a station is struggling with a unique challenge, they can count on the collective wisdom of the group to help troubleshoot.

It is important to note that you do not need to have a disability to participate. We are always happy to welcome able-bodied operators who check in. These hams often provide fresh, technical perspectives, helping us see issues from a new angle—and usually, they bring a bit of extra signal strength to the party!

By coming together, sharing knowledge, and helping one another navigate the technical and physical hurdles of the hobby, this group proves that amateur radio is, and should always be, for everyone. If you find yourself on the air this Friday evening, take a moment to look for the net—you might just find the community, and the answer you've been looking for.

73 De Dale EI7HDB

IRTS Hamfest 2026

Following last year's IRTS hamfest debut, this year the Hamfest returned to Mullingar over the weekend of the 8th and 9th of August in a much larger crowd than last year's.



Despite initially less promising weather forecasts, both days brought fair weather and setup went smoothly. Clubs from across the country showcased exhibitions ranging from SOTA, POTA, emergency preparedness, portable transceivers, and highlighted club activities.

There was plenty to see - the IRTS SOTA & POTA team displayed portable transceivers, the Irish Elf DX group brought premium SDR on computer display; EI3CC arrived with its custom communication van, completed with portable power, transceivers, and amenities for extended field operations; TOG HackerSpace transmitted cats-on-the-air SSTV images; North Dublin Radio club brought collection of walkie talkies and Tony EI5EM displayed his homebrew equipment, and adding to the nostalgia attendees brought vintage printed IRTS documents including pre-2000 callsign books and copies of the constitution. There are too many displays to enumerate individually.

The Saturday afternoon featured three presentations, ComReg explained how it supports the amateur radio community nationwide, Enda EI2II gave a retrospective of the Antigua DX expedition, and Vic EI5IYB introduced the latest technology in packet radio. There was ample space for camping, experienced field-portable operators pitched their tents and spent Saturday night on-site.



The Sunday began with a rally, attracting a wide range of vendors selling new and vintage transceivers, portable computers, accessories, and text books. We also attracted the curiosity of social media influencers such as Brinsley of "Weird Ireland" and Dave EI5IMB of "Irish Ham Radio" YouTube channel.





At its heart, ham radio is not simply about transmitting messages, but listening, knowledge sharing, building lasting relationships and bringing people together. Hamfest once again provided a flagship opportunity to do all of these, putting a face on the callsign you might have heard on the air.



We greatly appreciate everyone who contributed to Hamfest 2026 for your time, knowledge, enthusiasm and support. Please channel any feedback to hamfest@irts.ie and search for IRTS on your favourite social media for more event pictures, and IRTS wishes to see you again at many more events in the future.

Howard Guo - PRO IRTS
Irts_pro@irts.ie

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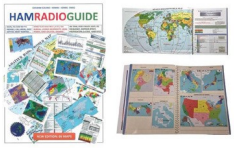
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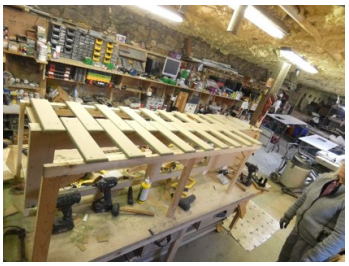


Building the RCU Part 5



At this stage with the RCU myself, EI3HQB, and Sue, EI1826, have been busy building the furniture for inside the unit, so space is a premium so a lot of planning had gone into the design and a big consideration it that was it had to have an option for someone who may want to sleep in the unit.

This was integrated into the seating area its known as slatting here and as you can see every other strip of timber interlocks allowing one section to extend.

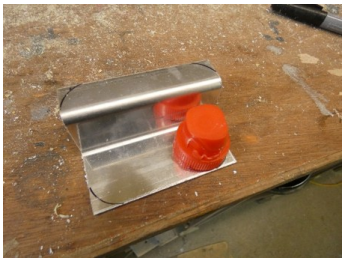



The Cushions used in the seating would drop when it was extended and you then had a comfortable bed to sleep on.

Incorporated in the same frame work would be under seating storage and at the door end two storage drawers for cups tea/sugar and cooking and cleaning items.




Even the handle grips were made from some offcuts of stepped angle aluminium we had left over with the corners rounded off they worked out a treat.



Under the desk again was going to be an area again where no space could be wasted so the upper section of the unit made for here would be the total length of the RCU and aprox 200mm square this would allow an area for storage of verticle antenns and our flag poles etc.




On a theme of keeping things simple we chose not to hinge the doors in the storage are as we said they may get damaged over time so we decided to fit the panel door into groves with simple toggle catch to keep then secure while not in use.




Both units are left short of the forward bulk head as on one side this would become the new home for the spare wheel and on the other we had two milatary portable mast kits that went perfect in this slot.

Three cupboards again for storage of drive on tents and gazebo pegs and also a full tool kit if needed.

The main feature of this unit would be a cooking area, this was needed again to make the unit totally independent if used on it's own so if someone was using it and wanted to catch the gry line they had the use of a cooking area for both coffee and cooking an egg or two.




At this stage and gallons of paint later the unit was now looking like a new unit, all the underside had been stripped and resealed with stone chip all cables for brakes replaced and each axle fitted with new bearings and brakes it had been indeed a long journey to



Building the RCU Part 5

get to here some weeks working for seven days at a time but when you look at the pictures you can see it was worth while and it was only to get better.





We were now a a stage where we could start to fit out the unit and maybe see some light at the end of the tunnel and get it used for what we had worked for.

And so we started final fix on all the components of the project and hopefully we had not forgot and bit at this stage.





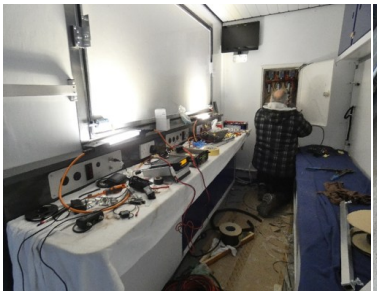
Here you can see the operating bench unit going in the drop down will house the cookers but when not in use it folds away.

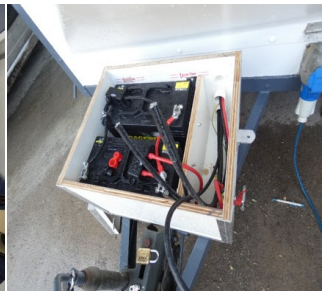
Then you see the bench fitted and all the front panels each with its own power pole connectors / voltage meters USB connectors ready for Wayne to bring to life.



Wayne went about conecting no amount of wiring in the unit it as I said was like flood water emerging out of the control box, we left him to it as we were more of a hinderance to him asking whats that for and this one where dose that go.

He was like Frankenstine trying to bring his monster to life a cable at a time both internally and externally.





Then the time came and Wayne hit the switch and it was like a fiirework display all the hard work from the members was coming to fruit we were blown away and could not stop stating into our very own mobile shack and one we had rescued from the scrap merchants





Even down to the cooking area a simple application but it would prove to be a valuable asset when we hit the road.



So look out for the final leg of the resurrection of the RCU

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Why Learn Morse Code?

Signalling via electrical telegraphy dates back the 1820's and refined by Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail in the 1830's before Friedrich Gerke, together with the advent being able to transmit audible tones, developed the forerunner to the International Morse Code which we use today.



Friedrich Clemens Gerke
(22 January 1801 – 21 May 1888)

International Morse code itself was developed in 1865 and is (bar the numbers) very close to Gerke's Continental Code.

The development of Morse Code was through necessity and, 160 years or so ago through to the 1920's, the reason for learning Morse Code as an amateur radio operator was simple; it was the only way to communicate with fellow hams.

As a side note, Morse Code sent over the air via radio transmissions is more commonly known so CW and this is what I will refer to it as from now on as that it what we will be talking about.



Following the advent of SSB voice comms in the 1920's at least until the late 1970's, CW was still most common way of communication by hams. However, as solid state technology matured, SSB and then digital modes became more prevalent.

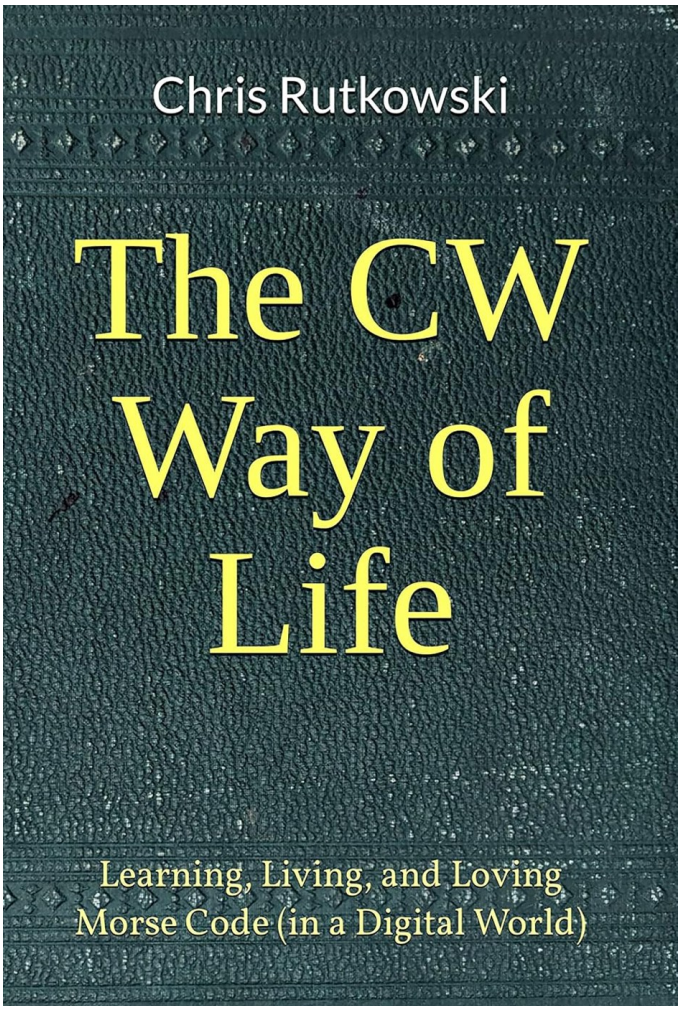
Even as late as 2002 there was still a compelling reason to learn CW, it was a requirement of International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) licensing requirements so if you wanted to be a ham radio operator, particularly on the HF bands, you had to learn it!

These days though, the ITU have dropped the code requirement and the vast majority of licensing bodies around the world have followed suit, SSB and data modes are accessible by all and as a consequence there was a feeling amongst many hams that CW would slowly fade into obscurity and become part of amateur radio's past.



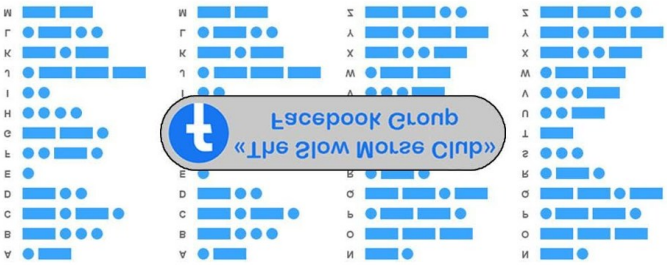
After all, voice comms and digital modes are quick, easy and effective so why, 160+ years on from its invention, should you put time and effort into learning CW?

1) It's fun. Communicating with someone via CW is like nothing else you'll experience as a ham. Once you are proficient, receiving dits and dahs but hearing words in your head is just plain fun. Having a rag chew with another station, talking about all sorts using nothing but a very specific combination of staccato tones has to be experienced to understand just how awesome CW is as a means of communication. Chris Rutskowski in his rather excellent book, The CW Way of Life, describes it as a form of telepathy; planting ideas in the other operators head using nothing more than a monotone set of bleeps. As a seasoned CW operator I think this is an excellent description of CW and, having a full blown rag chew QSO with another operator in CW is just plain fun.



Why Learn Morse Code?

2/ The CW community. Hams are generally a friendly bunch who already have something in common and we will all have friends who we have met on-air or otherwise through being a ham that we would not have met otherwise. The CW community is a concentrated version of that ham community. The vast majority of CW operators want newcomers to succeed and will welcome them into our strange world of dits and dahs, help them learn and slowly draw them into the fold. I have made life-long friends via CW who I have never met in person yet who I know as well as any of my 'real life' friends and have not felt more a part of a community than I have as a CW operator.



3/ It's efficient. Like some digital modes, CW is an excellent low power mode. It is perfectly possible to work the world on 5W or less. It is also entirely possible to copy very weak signals, those buried below the noise floor and is therefore great for chasing DX. Because of this, it is also a fantastic mode for those who like to work /p with more and more POTA and SOTA operators discovering just how handy it is to be able to work in CW. CW rigs can be very small, very light and very power efficient. I have had many successes activating POTA spots using just a couple of watts and working hunters from North America with ease. I have also had a great time working from holiday spots around Europe; nothing quite beats sitting on a beach at sunset whilst enjoying a spot of CW!



4/ It's a challenge. One of the core tenets of ham radio is self-learning and progression in the hobby and there are few better ways of achieving this than setting yourself the goal of learning CW. It doesn't require any technical skills, there is a high chances that you already own most of the equipment needed so the entry cost is minimal and there is a real sense of achievement throughout your entire journey as a CW operator from learning those first characters, managing to send coherent code via a practice oscillator through to the shear joy and satisfaction of having your first QSOs. The sense of achievement doesn't diminish as you progress either. Your first proper ragchew, your first hour long QSO, the first time someone replies to your CQ call, becoming an Elmer to a newcomer; the progression and pleasure never ends.

5/ Have I mentioned it's just plain fun?

So if you have been thinking about learning CW but weren't quite sure what you'd get from it hopefully this article has helped persuade you to go for it!

By 73 de Danny G3EEC *dit dit*

Danny - G3EEC
m0sdb@outlook.com

IARU Region 1 Roy Stevens G2BVN Memorial Trophy



The trophy is awarded by IARU Region 1 to any radio amateur worldwide that has best exemplified the work and dedication of Roy Stevens G2BVN in international amateur radio. Decisions on nominations submitted by member societies are made by an independent panel. It was first awarded in 1987.

At the final plenary meeting of the IARU Region 1 General Conference in Zlatibor, Serbia, which closed 5th November 2023, ***Séamus McCague EI8BP*** was announced as recipient of the Roy Stevens G2BVN Memorial Trophy. Proposed by the Italian National Society ARI the independent panel of five IARU Member Societies chaired by OV Vice President Manfred Mauler OE7AAI unanimously supported the proposal of ARI.

Séamus, licensed in 1967, was out-going Chair of the Public Relations Committee (PRC) of IARU Region 1 a role he held for two terms. He personally represented IARU as a member of the European Commission's EMC Working Party and the Expert Group on Radio Equipment. Séamus was involved in the IRTS for many years at committee level and as editor of both its journal and monthly electronic publication. He was IRTS President from 2012 to 2015 and is currently an Honourary Member of IRTS

He is Ireland mentor for ARISS-EU, the programme that organises amateur radio contacts with the International Space Station.



At the 27th IARU Region 1 General Conference in Vienna in September 2026 which he attended as part of the IRTS Delegation, he was formally presented with a specially-commissioned plaque by IARU R1 President Sylvain F4GKR.

https://www.iaru-r1.org/about-us/working-for-iaru/volunteer-recognition/

Stradbally Steam Rally

Our fourth year at this wonderful event and again record numbers attending 36,000, this gives us great footfall at our EI3CC stand and promote our hobby. This year the weather was perfect for our operation.



We set off on Friday this gives us time to set up the stand and station and as it is a bank holiday we have four days on site so a long event for us.



Saturday morning is the start of getting busy on the stand Steve EI5DD had arrived from Galway and had set up his QO-100 and in no time operating into India,





Wayne. EI7HKB was busy on the front tables where we have a variety of kits and games to entice people over to the stand.



Great interest in the QO-100 and Steve was kept busy with contacts and questions on the system he also had maps showing the coverage of the satellite and explaining that it was in a geostationary orbit.

The Show is now in its 62nd year and is still as popular as ever and the largest event in vintage in Ireland, they have a permanent steam train in Stradbally hall which has trips through the woodland and is used frequently during the year.



As the day progressed we were flat out with spectators and enquiries some of which from people that had been on CB back in the day, some were telling stories

Stradbally Steam Rally



of the adventures they had and some were somewhat surprised to hear that CB was again seeing a return and popular as ever.

Many wanting to know where to get equipment and even more how to set up a station as time had taken it's toll on the memory banks.



Saturday was coming to an end and all day people and equipment entered the site so Sunday and Monday were going to as busy as ever so heads down and listen to the fairground noise taking us of to sleep.



Sunday morning weather was stunning again so a drone shot of the site was needed to get our bearing of where we are in relation to the rest of displays that can be seen over the weekend and as can be seen we are merely a pin prick in relation to the scale of this event.



This is only a quarter of the displays and it takes a good day walking around everything my feet by Monday were going to take a while to recover.



One item we have on our stand and again is as popular as ever and a great crowd puller is our vintage stocks, its great at getting all sorts of people over to the display and once there they scan the display and even have a go on the radio or CW key.

Once locked in the stocks the prisoner to be released has to get someone family etc. to send their first name in CW to be released.

Some of the finest steam machines converge on Stradbally for this event and a steam parade

Stradbally Steam Rally

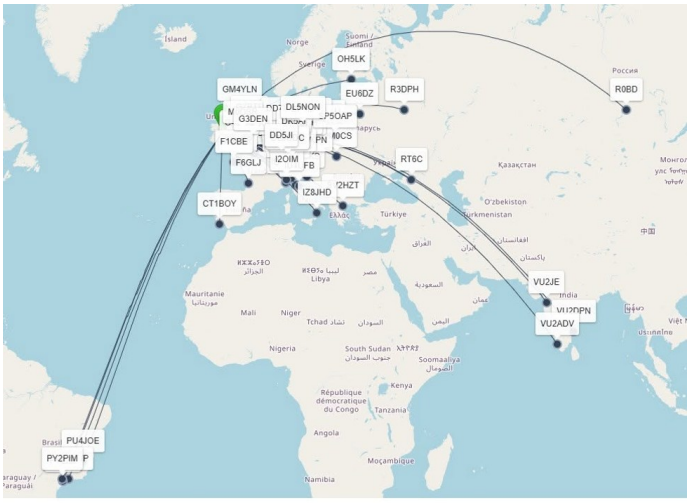
through the village is a worth while trip to see, various machines take part in the parade and we have top spot as they leave the grounds for the village and return after the parade.





A busy day comes to an end great interest in the radio equipment with many people returning later in the day to again have a go of operating or using the CW gear, a trip to the local chippy was indeed needed and a fine cup of coffee made the day worthwhile.

Into our last day and again t was going to be a scorcher Steve EI5DD had headed home and he had managed over 60 contacts over the two days between answering peoples enquires and operating, having to use headphones for most of the contacts as the noise from steam engines blowing whistles etc made hearing through speakers nearly impossible





One young man kept returning his obsession with CW was impressive and I can see him in the future being a licenced operator, so get out with your club it does not have to be a ham fest or radio rally to get yourself out it could help your club with membership and better still give someone an insight into our hobby and want to become an operator.





And so another Vintage festival passes again. A great weekend for us displaying radio of past and present showing young kids the science of communication and a great hobby that they can enjoy and experiment.

John Tubritt - EI3HQB
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EI3CC's 4th Birthday Bash



EI3CC became four years old on the 3rd of September and this year was a special one, we have achieved so much in a short space of time and look forward to a wonderful future.

So as usual we returned to where it all started, Kilmurin coast on the south coast of Ireland we are now the owners of a brand new club house but it is still always worth remembering where your roots came from.

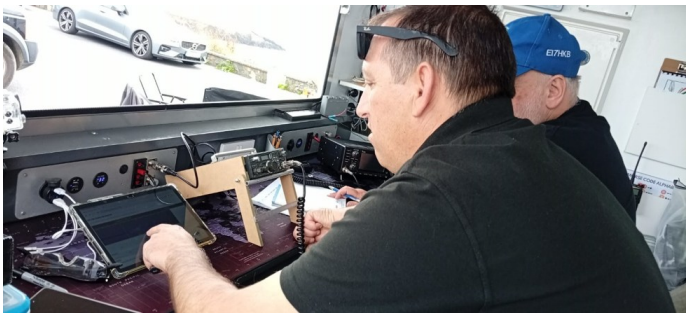
So we were having a summer of record temp and that made our location even better looking down on the sea from the cliff edge.

It was going to be busy again with members both camping and motor homes, we as usual set up on a Friday afternoon the location is only three miles from our farm so it's no big deal if we forget anything.



Once all set up we got on the radio and in no time we were having a pile up from new log in's to well wishers of previous contacts giving us a big happy birthday.

Jorge EI5033 and Wayne EI7HKB were pulling in calls at a rapid rate and I spent time talking to the public explaining what we were up to, being on a stunning coastal route the coaches and cars were pulling in for snap shots of the scenery and then looking at us.



Our membership now has reached 74 and still climbing all of these are fully enthusiastic and love to get out to our activations some traveling across the country.

Our calendar is a very busy one with 35 activations in 2026 and at the time of doing this article we were at number 22 on the list and looking forward to the rest of 2026 outings.



Our activity in QO-10 has grown and we now have 3 members in the group with access to equipment and we will have a permanent set up at the new club house by next spring





We still experiment while out activating this was seen lately in grounds for an antenna on the caravan roof lol

So we look forward to 2027 a calendar already being put together as we speak and our 5th birthday just as good as the last four.

John Tubritt - EI3HQB
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MeshCore – An Independent Radio Network for the Future

How the CB Funkfreunde Hassberge are building a decentralised LoRa communication network

Rethinking radio communication

For many radio enthusiasts and CB radio operators, radio communication has always represented one fundamental idea: the ability to communicate independently. No mobile phone mast, internet connection or central service provider is required when two radio stations can communicate directly with one another.

It is precisely this principle that has led us, the CB Funkfreunde Hassberge, to become deeply involved with MeshCore.

We are actively supporting the development of MeshCore entirely at our own expense because we firmly believe that independent communication will become increasingly important in the years ahead.

Our long-term objective is straightforward: wherever technically, legally and organisationally possible, we want to establish MeshCore repeaters at suitable locations and gradually build a reliable, independent radio network covering the Hassberge region and extending well beyond it.

The first nodes in our network

One of our key locations is Pirate Hill, the well-known radio hill of the CB Funkfreunde Hassberge. A MeshCore repeater is already operating there and represents one of the first important building blocks of our planned regional network.

Another repeater is located at the QTH of CB Prepper14 and carries the name CB Funkfreunde HAS.

There is also a repeater in the Fichtelgebirge, operating under the name CB Prepper14 Gefrees.

To us, these locations are much more than individual technical installations. They represent the beginning of an infrastructure that can become increasingly capable and useful with every additional suitable site.

We are currently in contact with several organisations and potential site providers. There is a possibility that two further elevated mountain locations may be added to the network. The repeaters intended for these sites are already available.

For a LoRa-based radio network, such locations are particularly valuable. Every additional repeater at an elevated site has the potential to extend the geographical coverage significantly and connect areas that would otherwise be outside the range of a single station.

So, what exactly is MeshCore?

MeshCore is an open, decentralised communication system based on LoRa radio technology. Supported LoRa hardware can perform different functions, including acting as a companion device for messaging, a repeater or a room server.

One of its most attractive characteristics is the ability to establish communications without relying on conventional internet infrastructure.

A MeshCore network consists of a number of radio nodes. Depending on the firmware and configuration, these nodes can originate, receive and forward messages, or provide additional services.

A repeater has a particularly important role: it extends the range of the network by forwarding suitable MeshCore packets. It is important to distinguish this from a conventional radio relay. A MeshCore repeater does not simply retransmit every packet it receives. Packet forwarding follows the rules of the MeshCore protocol.

As a result, the range of communication does not depend solely on how far two individual radio stations can communicate directly with one another.

LoRa – low power, long range

The technical foundation is LoRa, a radio technology designed for robust data communication over long distances while maintaining relatively low power consumption.

This is particularly interesting for a project such as ours. Compared with many conventional communication systems, a MeshCore node can operate with relatively modest energy requirements. This makes it possible to consider autonomous repeater installations at locations where no permanent mains electricity is available.

This opens up some fascinating possibilities.

A solar panel, battery and suitable LoRa node can form the basis of an autonomous repeater installation. For remote mountain locations, this characteristic is particularly valuable.

A site does not necessarily need a mains power supply or network connection. Instead, the key requirements are a suitable radio location, reliable energy provision and a technically sound installation.

Location is everything

Anyone with an interest in radio will know that height matters.

A repeater located in a valley can be heavily affected by buildings, woodland, terrain and other obstructions. A repeater installed on a hill or mountain, by contrast, may provide substantially better radio coverage. This is why we deliberately look for suitable elevated locations.

Height alone, however, is not enough. We also have to consider the surrounding terrain, possible obstructions, accessibility, power requirements, mounting conditions and, of course, the legal and organisational requirements of each site.

A good repeater location is therefore always the result of several factors working together.

Our Pirate Hill is an excellent example. Its elevated position combined with an established community of radio enthusiasts makes it a particularly interesting location for our activities.

MeshCore – An Independent Radio Network for the Future

A network grows with every new location

The real strength of a mesh network becomes apparent when individual radio nodes develop into a connected infrastructure.

Imagine a radio enthusiast in the Hassberge sending a message. A reachable repeater receives the message and, according to the protocol, can forward it. Additional repeaters may then extend the communication into other areas.

The result is not simply a collection of isolated repeaters. Instead, a radio infrastructure with multiple interconnected nodes begins to emerge.

MeshCore also provides mechanisms known as advertisements, through which devices can announce their presence and, depending on configuration, information such as their location.

As the network grows, this makes the infrastructure increasingly visible to its users and helps them understand which nodes and services are available.
Decentralised rather than dependent
One of the central principles of our project is decentralisation.
In conventional communication systems, essential parts of the infrastructure are controlled by service providers. Mobile communications, for example, depend on mobile network operators and their infrastructure. Internet communication depends on network and server infrastructure.

MeshCore takes a different approach.

The radio infrastructure can be built and operated by the people who actually use it.

There is no conventional mobile phone contract required for the basic radio communication, and local radio operation does not inherently require an internet connection.

This creates an interesting proposition for radio enthusiasts:

You can build your own communication infrastructure.

That philosophy fits perfectly with the CB Funkfreunde Hassberge.

Security and encryption

Security is another important aspect

MeshCore uses cryptographic mechanisms for identities, key exchange and encrypted communications. The current technical documentation describes, among other mechanisms, Ed25519 for identity and signatures, X25519 for key exchange, and AES-128 together with HMAC-SHA256 for encryption and authentication in relevant parts of the communication system.

There is, however, an important distinction to make:

Not every communication on MeshCore should automatically be considered private.

Public channels are intended for public communication. Private channels can, by contrast, use a secret key. Security therefore also depends on correct configuration and responsible key management.

For us, this is an important principle. Modern radio technology should not merely provide range; it should also encourage responsible communication and sensible security practices.

MeshCore and emergency preparedness

One particularly interesting application is independent communication when conventional infrastructure becomes unavailable.

Power failures, disruptions to mobile networks, overloaded systems or loss of internet connectivity can affect the communication methods we normally take for granted.

An independently operated MeshCore network can provide an additional means of communication in such circumstances.

MeshCore should, of course, not be regarded as a replacement for professional emergency-service radio systems or official communications infrastructure. Instead, it can be considered an additional, privately operated communication system that may be useful for events, outdoor activities, technical projects and personal emergency preparedness.

The ability to operate repeaters using independent power supplies at suitable locations makes the concept particularly interesting for these applications.

Autonomous repeaters

radio independent of the mains supply

We therefore place particular emphasis on autonomous installations.

A possible installation may consist of:

- a suitable LoRa device,
- MeshCore repeater firmware,
- an appropriate antenna,
- a battery,
- a solar panel,
- suitable charging electronics,
- a weatherproof enclosure,
- professional installation and mounting.

The precise design naturally depends on the location and the equipment being used.

Mountain installations also require consideration of temperature, humidity, wind, snow, lightning, mechanical stress and long-term maintenance requirements.

A repeater on a mountain is therefore not simply a device that can be placed somewhere and forgotten.

Every reliable site requires planning, testing,

Our eight-person core team

- Building a network of this kind cannot be achieved by one person.
- Our community currently consists of eight active people who take responsibility for organisation,

planning, technical implementation and coordination.

- We also have additional supporters and members who follow the project, contribute ideas, show an interest in the technology or become involved when required.
- This combination is particularly important to us.
- On the one hand, we want a technically committed core team capable of actually delivering projects.
- On the other, we want our community to remain open.
- Not everyone needs to be a radio engineer.
- Not everyone needs to know how to configure a repeater.
- And not everyone needs to participate in every project.
- Interest, willingness to learn and a sense of community are equally valuable. installation, configuration and maintenance.

From individual repeater to regional network

- Our long-term objective is therefore not simply to install as many devices as possible.
- We want to develop a carefully planned regional MeshCore network.
- Different types of locations can fulfil different roles.
- Mountain locations can provide broad geographical coverage.
- Regional repeaters can connect individual radio areas.
- Private nodes can extend the communication options available to individual users.
- Room servers can provide additional functionality for storing and retrieving messages. MeshCore supports room-server functionality alongside repeater operation.
- In this way, many small technical building blocks can gradually become a much larger infrastructure.

Technology that brings people together

- For us, MeshCore is therefore more than just another digital radio project.
- It brings together several things that matter to us as CB radio enthusiasts:
- Radio technology.
- Independence.
- Community.
- Individual initiative.
- Technical knowledge.
- And above all: communication.
- The world of CB radio has changed repeatedly over the decades. New technologies do not necessarily replace traditional radio; instead, they can create additional possibilities.
- We therefore do not regard MeshCore as a competitor to CB radio.
- We see it as a complement.
- CB radio provides voice communication over radio.
- MeshCore introduces additional possibilities for digital LoRa communication.
- Both technologies can exist alongside one another.

Our journey has only just begun

The repeaters currently operating on Pirate Hill, at the QTH of CB Prepper14, and in the Fichtelgebirge are only the beginning.

Additional locations are being discussed and planned.

The equipment for these future installations is already available.

The next step is to identify suitable locations, resolve technical and organisational questions, and gradually bring additional nodes online.

We know that building a network of this kind takes time. but that is precisely what makes the project so interesting.

Every new site is another building block.

Every new connection expands the possibilities. and every radio enthusiast who becomes involved helps transform individual devices into a genuine community-owned communication infrastructure.

Our objective

Our objective is clear:

- To build a strong, independent and reliable MeshCore network for the Hassberge region and beyond.
- We want to demonstrate that the radio community remains alive and relevant in the digital age.
- We want to understand modern technology, experiment with it and use it sensibly.
- And we want to work together to create an infrastructure that is not dependent on a single commercial provider.

Anyone wishing to learn more about the activities of the CB Funkfreunde Hassberge is welcome to visit our Facebook group. We regularly share information about new MeshCore repeater locations, technical projects, CB radio activities and the continuing development of our network.
CB Funkfreunde Hassberge Facebook Group

Our project is driven by people who do not merely talk about radio technology, but actually put it into practice.

Perhaps the next MeshCore repeater will soon be installed on another mountain.

Perhaps it will create a new link between two regions.

Perhaps many individual projects will eventually become one large, interconnected radio network.

The beginning has already been made.



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International Inland Waterways On The Air

The event is open to all Amateurs who are boaters, cyclists, walkers and other users of the canals, rivers, towpaths, riverbanks for work or recreation. Even lakes and reservoirs that are used for recreation uses classify as an inland waterway, so there are many places for activating. Many clubs and individual Amateurs on or near the inland waterways obtain Special Event Station (SES) callsigns. Others operate mobile or portable using their own callsigns. Many more like to contact the IIWOTA stations.



EI3CC did an activation last year and we again had an opportunity to activate during the weekend of Aug 29-30 only this time we could do it from the club house as we sit on Ballyscanlon lake which is in the category needed to comply.

We have only recently moved into the club house so it was a great opportunity to be able to have an on site stop over for the weekend activation having full shower and kitchen facilities on site is a great advantage for weekend operations.

We arrived on site Saturday mid-morning to miserable torrential rain but it was to clear by mid-day so we fired up the station and the kettle but it was clear the bands were dismal, we did not know that reports of Aurora had been reported the night before.

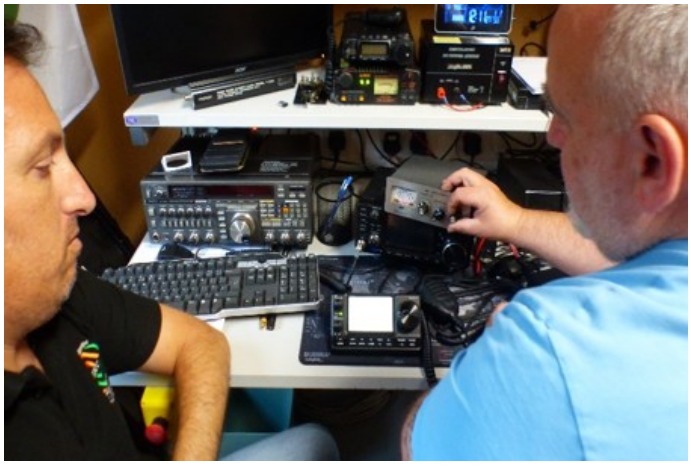
We just assumed things would get better as the day went on and it was going to be a bit of a long day for those who had travelled from as far as Wicklow 100 miles each way.



Some of the visitors were arriving and in no time it was a lively club house with catch ups and for some members a first time in the new club house.



As the day went on and very little happening on the radio we decided to unbox some recent radios purchased by members and power them up and familarise them with the controls, one of the radios a purchase from a silent key an ICOM 7100 which was never out of it's box so it was as fresh as a daisy and after connecting it up it burst into life and could be checked through the repeaters as it was both HF/VHF/UHF.



One of the member's wife, Dorta. had brought some home made buns so coffee and buns kept us going through the day.

The day soon passed with a steady flow of visitors and before you knew it the sun was putting on a display

International Inland Waterways On The Air

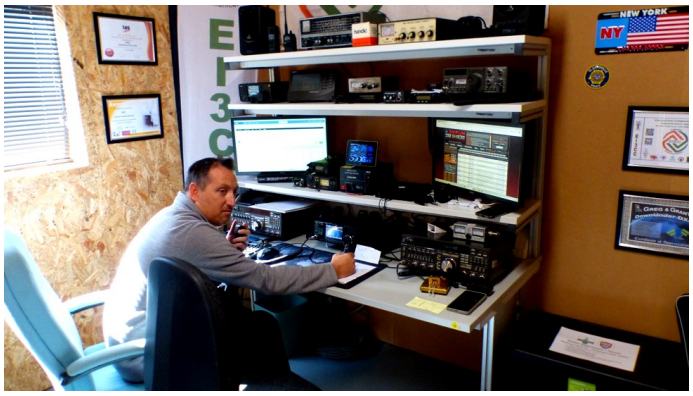


with a classic Ballyscanlon sun set and what a way to watch it on the front deck of the club house with a fine take away and coffee.

Sunday arrived and as usual a hearty breakfast was on the menu so I Ei3HQB was designated as chef and had the task of feeding the troops also there was noises from the shack that looked like the bands may well be operating again so roll on breakfast.



So onto the radio and Jorge EI5033 operating under the Club call of EI3CC and in no time we had a pile up and more so as we were the only registered EI in the list of activating stations.



Jorge had his first experience of dealing with a pile up and was enjoying every miniute of it a total of 62 entry's were logged in a period of about 5 hours so at least the weekend was somewhat of a success but again as is most of our weekends always memorable and members looking forward to the next outing.

John Tubritt - EI3HQB
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EI3CC at HamFest 2026

This is the second Hamfest that the national society has run and it was run at the Equestrian centre Mullingar.

EI3CC was invited once again, and as most know we have a busy schedule as we would be at the Stradbally vintage show for four days the week before, I said to Andy the secretary of the IRTS I would do the best I could to be there as we had such a great response at the first one.

So, a phone call was made to yet another friend and I was able to leave the RCU with them until the Hamfest the following week this meant I did not have to tow it back home and bring it back up to the ham fest event so saving about 150 miles on fuel.

So I arrived on Saturday morning and i was located in a similar position as last year only this time no round bales to compete with the food truck and seating areas would be in front of us so we had great interaction with people having coffee or lunch.



One of the advantages of having the RCU is that it is fully self sufficient so we have no need for mains electricity but on this occasion, we had a guest Dave from the Delta Mike Facebook page on site and he needed all the power we could give him to run his laptops and radios.

This was Daves first visit to the ham fest and it would be the first time running an 11meter CB station Dave has a great following online every Sunday evening at 9pm with news and sales in both CB and Ham radio.

An adaptor plate was made up before we travelled and it was fingers crossed if it would suit the Ant/mast as





we had no RCU to test until the event but all went well Dave got the adaptor fitted and up into the air went our own Antron 99 on top of our pump up mast and in the sunshine it was a great sight.

This was drawing a crowd as many of us started life on radio on CB so 29-DM-840 was in full swing both on and off the air.

Steve EI5DD arrived from Galway and again was ready with the QO-100 and he shared the RCU with Dave again he too was flat out with contacts and enquiries on getting into the QO-100 .





Again this year we had the great MK Bia food truck

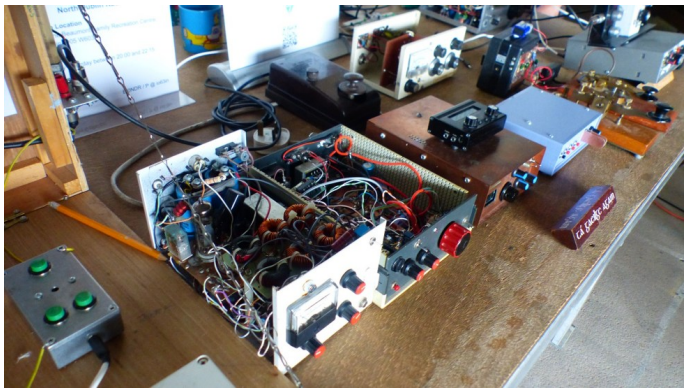


EI3CC at HamFest 2026

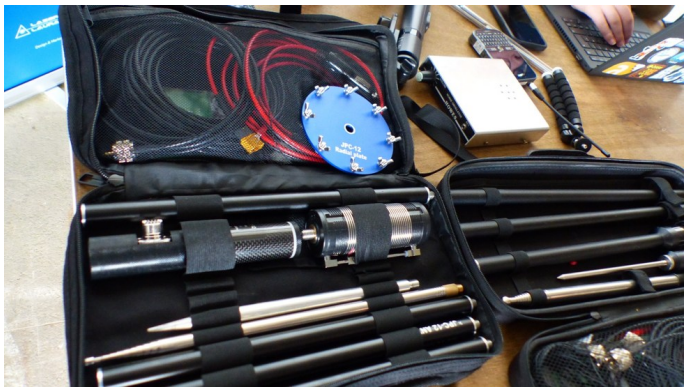
and as with last the food was second to non and as the day went on the variety from burgers to Pizza into the evening and as always plenty of coffee and Tea as and when needed we would highly recommend them if your looking for catering.

A tour around the various stands had a delight of various displays from vintage to hi tec and home brew and king of the home brew was Tone EI5EM with some stunning gear as usual and a simple way of constructing his items without all the need for fancy made boards his display had a bit for a beginner to an advanced radio builder.





Again various clubs attended with displays that the club specialised in with POTA being one example various radios and gear that would be suitable for such operating and many operators there to explain the best option for your activation.



Later in the after noon Comreg gave a talk on the current position of the radio in Ireland after a number of surveys had been carried out.

And into the evening we went with the day flying by and the hope of finding some little or large radio gem in the bring and buy on Sunday.`



Again our catering crew looked after us well and plenty of breakfast buns were to be seen everywhere some of the clubs had camped in adjacent fields and were cooking breakfast for there respective guests and members.



As the morning went on vans and cars turned up with multiple boxes and they were being unloaded in where the bring and buy was to be held I continued my roaming amongst the stands and was great to catch up with Pat EI2HX on the IRTS stand with his selection of CW keys a great display.

I headed down to the bring and buy and had a rummage some great gear could be had and I was half tempted with the drake equipment on show Sean had travelled up from limerick and again his gear was as always very tidy as was the case with Steve from Kerry.





And so the Hamfest was over for 2026 it had again brought people together with one goal to communicate and socialise, the fact it doesn't need a fancy hotel and an all night bar meant those attending adapted and still had a great weekend.

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Dublin Maker 2026



Dublin Maker takes the form of a "show and tell" experience where inventors/makers sourced through an open call, will have an opportunity to showcase their creations in a carnival atmosphere. It is a family friendly showcase of invention, creativity and resourcefulness, and a celebration of the maker movement.

We returned to the maker weekend at the request of the organizer Jeffery Roe (now president of the IRTS). We (EI3CC) decided we would go on a Sunday and take a tour of the event with a possible view to putting on a display in 2027, we had been to the first maker a few years prior at a different location and as it has grown, they moved the event to leopard's town Racecourse.



A number of our members were attending so views on weather we would attend in 2027 were going to be helpful with that in mind we set of on some of the stands, located outside was a number of gazebo type stands and also open displays such as this electric racing car built by the collage and raced at Silverstone circuit in the UK.



The young lady was very informative in the build process and some of the headaches that they had to get over to comply with rules and regs and to keep the car light and aero too.





Any time I see an opportunity to get our logo anywhere I do it and when you are presented with a chalk path then you have got to have a go.

Some great stands with interesting names were to be seen one here Professor potter sounded like a harry potter themed name and as the posters said learn to solder seemed great fun. And some great model aircraft on his stand with electronic controls.



Robo Armageddon was in full swing and was extremely busy a robot wars type elimination game as seen on TV.



One stand I found very interesting where by kids just unscrewed electronic items apart just to see how they were made and what purpose each section of the components being pulled out did inside the item.





Dublin Maker 2026



They had great fun and it was packed through the day with some interesting items being pulled apart.

The south Dublin Radio Club had a great display and stand again and as ever the tones from CW could be heard and as can be expected adults and children were there in abundance to have a go on the keys.





You printed your name in boxes and below each of the boxes you filled in with corresponding CW per letter and then you went on to then send your name on the key they were also on air via a wire antenna too.

A great variety of stands with various crafts for everyone from embroidery and knitted items to a stunning head made from plywood each piece about 6mm and I assume cut on a CNC machine and once assembled with the light in the right place looked great.

The Dublin maker is a great way for kids to get to see the sciences that these days seem lost, items under their noses this experiment with plungers had everyone hooked or should I say stuck together



Various experiments were tried with suction pads and then attempts were made to pull them apart with some surprises as to how well they held together.





This experiment measured the smoothness of your hand while undergoing a task of inserting pins into the board, you are viewed from above via a camera and movement is then tracked and the data fed into a PC and then an analysis is carried out on your task and as can be seen each finger is given a result so in my case EI3HQB hand as smooth as silk but seems thumb a bit twitchy, I wonder if that's from many years of thumbing a lift!

So, all in all it's a great two days showcasing various crafts and hobbys and if your kids are into science then it's a great place to see some fantastic experiments.
We at EI3CC will be looking at attending in 2027 with our mobile radio unit with a display and also promoting our hobby to the young and old, until next time 73

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JOTA - JOTI 2026



JOTA-JOTI is the world's largest digital and radio Scouts event, taking place every year over the third full weekend of October. It's a great chance for groups and sections to take part in an international Jamboree.


The Saturday Gathering for JOTA 2022 with EI3CC/P..

JOTA-JOTI stands for Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI). It's organised by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM).

It is usually pronounced as JOTA rhyming with 'rota' and JOTI rhyming with 'floaty'.

Taking part from all over the world, thousands of Scouts join in either on the internet or over amateur radios. They get involved in lots of activities and learn about each other's countries. The event is open to anyone and is for all ages. This even includes people who aren't members of Scouts – or not yet at least!

You can register your group on the JOTA-JOTI website. Young people over 13 are able to register individually. However, they need to make sure that their parents/carers have been informed and that they know how to take part in the event safely.

We know you're excited and want to jump straight in, but, before taking part, make sure you have completed a risk assessment.



Young people will learn about another country or a global issue first-hand, and develop communication skills too. There'll be lots of different activities to get involved in, both online and offline. It is an event that has something of a thrill about it for Scouts of all ages, becoming a highlight in the calendar for many

If you're stepping away from today's digital technology and going on-the-air, you'll find that there's a certain magic of the crackling airwaves. There's a reason JOTA has been going for more than 60 years!

Whether it's your international badge, Global Issues badge or your World Challenge Award, you can work towards the international parts of the programme. It is a good chance to work towards the Communicator badges, too.

The best way to take part in JOTA-JOTI is to build it into an event about Scouts around the world and communication. Why not plan a themed camp or activity day for that weekend?

You can check out our range of global programme activity ideas.



You will be able to tap into whichever parts of the international JOTA-JOTI programme you're interested in. Don't forget to make sure that everyone always has something to do, especially if you're only logging on in small groups at a time and people will be waiting around to have a turn.

This could be an event for the whole District or County/Area, or groups could host their own event in their meeting place. It might be a nice opportunity for different age groups to come together. If you want to go on-the-air, you'll need a helping hand from someone who holds an amateur radio transmitting licence to set up a JOTA station. You can find more information about setting up a JOTA station on this page.



JOTA - JOTI 2026



Why not chat to another group or District/County/Area or someone who has run a JOTA-JOTI event before for some tips? Or visit an existing event.

You can also get support from the UK JOTA JOTI team. Get in touch with them at jota.joti@scouts.org.uk

You could also check if there are any Scout Adventures JOTA-JOTI events that your group could go to.



Whatever you do, it is important to make sure it's done safely. Take a look at the safety information on this page.

You can register on the JOTA JOTI website. If registration for this year isn't open yet, you can follow the JOTA-JOTI Facebook page for updates.

So get involved Ireland is a great example here is a list from last year with some of the numbers registered and when you think 10yrs ago there was no more than two groups doing JOTA.

JOTA-JOTI 2025 Participation scouts & Scouters registered on JOTA-JOTI	1857	
Number of Groups	47	
1/3/5th Longford	12	
10th Kilternan		See LH
11th Cork Cloghroe		KC
11th Waterford Dungarvan	250	
14th Galway	100	
17th Dublin (Dalkey)		LH
17th Meath		
17th Meath Longwood Ireland	100	
17th meath longwood scouts	10	
1st Galway	50	
1st Galway St. Joseph's	30	
1st Kerry Tralee	20	
1st Meath Dunboyne - Monday Beavers	26	
1st Meath Navan	20	
1st Offaly Tullamore	15	
1st Port of Galway Sea Scouts	100	
21st Klidare Crookstown	15	
25th Wexford Piercestown	40	
26th Cork Kinsale	10	
2nd 6th Limerick	20	
3/40/41 Dublin	20	
31st Cork Lissarda		KC
32nd Galway - Menlo	30	
37th Cork Togher	14	
3rd Mayo Ballinrobe	5	
49th Ballincollig	20	
5th Carlow town scout group	30	
5th carlow town scouts	8	
5th Mayo Scouts Ballina	30	
6th Cavan kingscourt	50	
7 Rathangan Scouts Ireland	37	
87th Dublin Polish Group	5	
8th Galway (Oranmore)	60	
9th Westmeath	70	
Ballinora	30	
coppercoast scouts	20	
Mallow scouts	5	
61 Kilmacud		LH
71 Kilmacud		LH
137th Ballaly		LH
59th johnstown		LH
Plast Ukraine	21	
45th Cork blarney		KC
28th Mcroom		KC
4th Cork St Peter & Pauls		KC
109th Cork Ballinora		KC
9th/76th Cork Bandon		KC
LH	317	
Kilcully ck	267	







International Lighthouse and Light Ships on the Air 2026



LOTA is a great activation and in our case a holiday, we have a busy calendar prior to LOTA and hence the term holiday.

This year we returned to the Balinacourty light house in Dungarvan we would be missing some of our usual members due to trips away or so unsure of numbers that would attend I set off on Saturday morning it was grey and overcast and I was hoping the weather would not break and make it a wet weekend and worse still if the bands were dead too.

I arrived on site and shortly after frank EI8JLB and Jorge EI5033 joined me so after a cup of coffee we got stuck in to getting the camp up and ready for the weekend. Initial reports showed the bands working well and the cloud was also clearing too. It was looking up for a great weekend, time to get our activation on air and straight away we were off the mark and calls coming in quick and fast.



We soon had a pile up and Frank EI8JLB was in full swing and managing it very well, as the morning went Jorge EI5033 then took over and a rhythm of operators soon had a logbook filling fast.



The clouds cleared and as the day progressed we filled the log and the site gathered members too some stopping over to camp and others out for the day.



The radio was flat out all day with various operators at the mic Jamie EI5JLB and Adrian running a stint into the evening sun.





Saturday night came along and for some it was a first in camping and only to be compounded with trying to put up a tent in the dark hi hi as you can imagine the language was somewhat blue,



Sunday morning was again stunning weather was on our side and we set about breakfast and more people had messaged to say they were on the way down for a visit even the fishing crews were on the water early for a big catch.

A bit more radio and meeting up with new friends and old ones too made for a great weekend and looking forward to 2027 LOTA•

How to Pass Ireland's Amateur Radio Exam - Jorge Herculano

Unlike countries with multi-tiered amateur radio licensing systems, Ireland relies on a single, comprehensive gateway to the airwaves: the Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC). Administered by the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS) on behalf of ComReg, the HAREC grants successful candidates a full CEPT-compliant licence with international operating privileges.

Because the examination covers everything from advanced electronics theory to Irish amateur radio regulations, success requires a focused and structured approach. Here's how to conquer the exam and earn your callsign.

1. Understand the 60-Question Split

The HAREC consists of 60 multiple-choice questions and allows two hours for completion. The examination is divided into two equal sections:

Section A (30 Questions)

Radio theory, electrical principles, antennas, components, propagation and circuit analysis.

Section B (30 Questions)

Regulations, licensing conditions, band plans, operating procedures and safety requirements.

The key point: You must achieve at least 60% in each section to pass. Scoring highly in the regulations section will not compensate for a poor result in the technical section. You need a minimum of 18 correct answers out of 30 in both sections.

2. Download the Official IRTS Study Guide

Avoid relying solely on American or British amateur radio study materials. While they can help explain radio theory, they do not cover Ireland-specific regulations, frequency allocations, operating procedures or ComReg requirements.

Instead, download the official IRTS HAREC Study Guide from the IRTS downloads page. This comprehensive guide is written specifically for the Irish syllabus and covers both traditional radio concepts and modern technologies such as Software Defined Radio (SDR).

3. Join an Online Training Course

The technical content of the HAREC can appear daunting to newcomers. Topics such as impedance, reactance, propagation, filtering and electromagnetic compatibility are often easier to understand in a structured learning environment.

The National Short Wave Listeners Club (NSWLC), Jprhe and opportunities to ask questions as you progress through the syllabus.

4. Master Ireland's Regulatory Requirements

Radio theory is universal, but amateur radio regulations are country-specific. Pay close attention to the Irish band plans and licence conditions.

You should be comfortable with:

- **Irish callsign prefixes, including EI and EJ**
- **Band allocations and operating restrictions**
- **Emergency communications procedures**
- **Licence conditions and permitted operating practices**
- **RF safety requirements and exposure limits**

Questions in this section are often straightforward for candidates who have thoroughly studied the official material.

5. Practise and Book Early

Regular practice is one of the most effective ways to prepare for the HAREC. Use sample papers and practice questions to identify weak areas and build confidence. Aim to consistently exceed the 60% pass threshold in both sections before sitting the examination.

Keep an eye on the IRTS examination portal for upcoming examination dates and application information. Booking early helps ensure you secure a place at your preferred examination session and gives you a clear target date for your studies.

Follow an Eight-Week Study Timetable

Aim for five study sessions each week, lasting approximately 45 to 60 minutes. Use one additional session for revision and keep one day free.

Week	Main focus	Suggested activities
1	Components and circuits	Resistors, capacitors, inductors, semiconductors and power supplies
3	Transmitters and receivers	Modulation, oscillators, amplifiers, filters and SDR principles
4	Interference and safety	EMC, filtering, earthing, RF exposure and electrical safety
6	Irish regulations	Licence conditions, callsigns, band plans and operating procedures
7	Consolidation	Review weak topics and complete practice questions from both sections
8	Examination practice	Sit at least two timed mock papers and revise every incorrect answer

A Typical Study Week

Monday:	Read one topic from the study guide.
Tuesday:	Make concise notes or flashcards.
Wednesday:	Work through calculations and technical examples.
Thursday:	Study regulations, band plans or safety requirements.
Friday:	Complete practice questions without referring to your notes.
Saturday:	Review mistakes and revisit difficult topics.
Sunday:	Rest or complete light revision.

Record your Section A and Section B scores separately. Before the examination, aim to score comfortably above the required 60% in both sections rather than merely reaching the pass mark.

Final Thoughts

Passing the HAREC is not simply about memorising facts. Success comes from balancing technical understanding with a solid grasp of Irish amateur radio regulations. With the official study guide, regular practice and a structured study plan, you'll be well placed to earn your callsign and join Ireland's amateur radio community.

Artificial Intelligence in Amateur Radio: My Perspective



As an amateur radio enthusiast, I have seen how technology continues to transform the hobby. One of the most exciting developments in recent years is the growing use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). While amateur radio has traditionally focused on radio communication, electronics, and experimentation, AI is opening up new possibilities for improving signal quality, station management, learning, and communication efficiency. I believe that AI can enhance the amateur radio experience while still preserving the hands-on skills and innovation that make the hobby so rewarding.

What AI Means to Me

I understand Artificial Intelligence as technology that enables computers to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence. These tasks include recognizing patterns, analysing data, learning from experience, and making decisions based on available information.
In amateur radio, I can use AI-powered software to help analyse radio signals, improve digital communications, reduce noise, and automate routine station tasks. These capabilities allow me to spend more time enjoying the hobby and less time dealing with repetitive activities.



How I Use AI in Amateur Radio

Signal Recognition and Analysis

One of the most useful applications of AI is signal recognition. AI software can examine radio transmissions and identify different modes, frequencies, and signal characteristics.

This helps me to:

- Identify unknown signals.
- Detect interference sources.
- Monitor band activity.
- Better understand propagation conditions.
- AI can often recognize weak signals that would otherwise be difficult for me to detect using traditional methods.

Enhanced Digital Communications

Digital modes such as FT8, FT4, and JS8Call already rely heavily on computer technology. AI can further improve these communications by helping to:

- Decode weak signals more accurately.
- Reduce transmission errors.
- Suggest optimal operating frequencies.
- Predict the best times to make contacts.
- By using these tools, I can successfully communicate with stations around the world even when radio conditions are challenging.

Noise Reduction

Radio interference is a common problem, especially in urban environments. AI-based noise reduction systems can separate desired signals from unwanted background noise.

The benefits I experience include:

- Clearer audio reception.
- Improved voice communications.
- Better digital mode performance.
- Higher signal-to-noise ratios.

Artificial Intelligence in Amateur Radio: My Perspective

As a result, signals that were previously difficult to hear become much easier to understand.

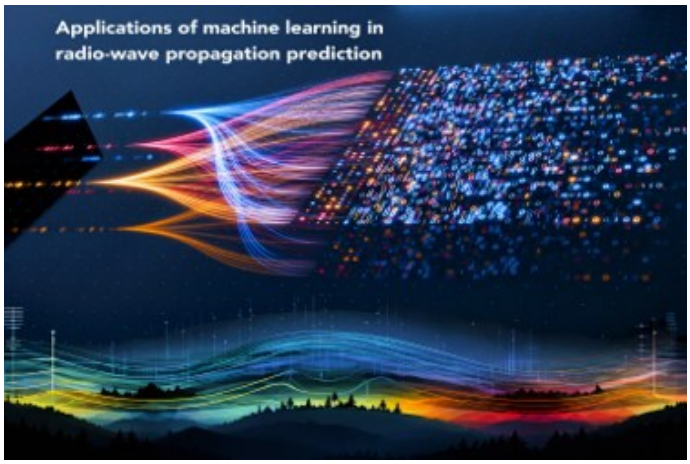
AI in Emergency Communications

One of the most important roles of amateur radio is providing communication during emergencies. I believe AI has significant potential to improve emergency communication networks.

AI systems can help by:

- Analysing communication traffic.
- Predicting network congestion.
- Supporting decision-making during emergencies.
- These capabilities could improve the speed and accuracy of information sharing when it matters most.

AI and Propagation Prediction



Understanding radio wave propagation has always been one of the most interesting challenges in amateur radio. Factors such as solar activity, time of day, season, and atmospheric conditions can all affect communication.

AI can analyse large amounts of historical and real-time data to predict propagation conditions more accurately. By using these predictions, I can determine the best frequencies and operating times for successful communication with distant stations.

Learning and Training

As both an amateur radio operator and an instructor, I see great value in AI-assisted learning tools. AI can help operators by:

Explaining technical concepts.

- Generating practice examination questions.
- Providing personalized learning support.
- Offering interactive training experiences.
- These tools can make amateur radio more accessible to newcomers and help experienced operators continue developing their knowledge and skills.

Challenges of Using AI

While I believe AI offers many benefits, there are also some concerns.

Loss of Traditional Skills

Some operators worry that increased automation could reduce the need for traditional amateur radio skills such as manual tuning, fault finding, and Morse code operation. I believe it is important to use AI as a support tool rather than a replacement for fundamental knowledge. Reliability

AI systems depend on the quality of the data and software used. Incorrect predictions or software errors can sometimes lead to poor operating decisions.

Privacy and Security

As more systems become connected to the internet, protecting operating data and station security becomes increasingly important.

Cost

Some advanced AI-enabled equipment and software may require additional investment, which could be a barrier for some amateur radio operators.

The Future of AI in Amateur Radio

Looking ahead, I expect AI to become an increasingly important part of amateur radio. Future developments may include:

- AI-assisted antenna design.
- Smarter propagation forecasting systems.
- Automatic signal classification.
- Real-time language translation.
- Improved weak-signal communications.
- Enhanced emergency communication networks.
- These innovations will provide exciting opportunities for experimentation and technical development within the hobby.

Conclusion

From my perspective, Artificial Intelligence represents an exciting advancement in amateur radio. It has the potential to improve signal analysis, communication performance, station automation, learning, and emergency communications. While I do not see AI replacing the skills and knowledge of amateur radio operators, I believe it can become a valuable tool that enhances our capabilities. By embracing these technologies while continuing to develop traditional radio skills, I can help ensure that amateur radio remains innovative, educational, and relevant for future generations.

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Saving it from the Bin

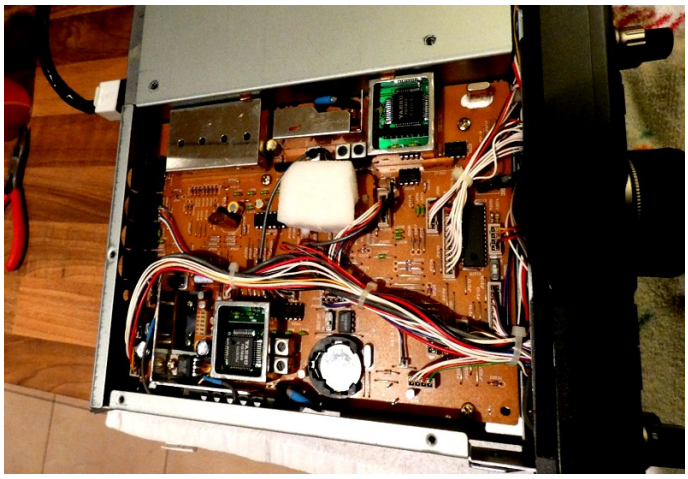
Blending the high-performance digital frequency synthesis techniques from the Yaesu FT-890 with the operating convenience and affordability of the FT-747GX, the FT-840 adds a choice of two optional remote automatic antenna tuners and a wealth of convenient functions. For compact base and mobile stations, the FT-840 set the new standard for high-performance affordable transceivers.



As a first-time rig, back-up or main station transceiver, the FT-840 has the features and dependability that both beginners and seasoned operators will appreciate.

These radios are now getting on a bit and some have needlessly ended up in the bin, for a novice they are possibly the easiest radio's out there to operate just enough functions to get you on the air with 100w out.

On this particular Yaesu the FT-840 radio is known for its internal heating issues, particularly due to the R2213 resistor. This resistor generates excessive heat, which can lead to circuit board failure. To address this, users can increase the wattage of the resistor from 2W to 5W or replace it with a higher-wattage 30W resistor bolted directly to the metal chassis. This modification helps to lower the temperature in the area of the voltage regulators and reduces the probability of failure. The process involves replacing the original part and using the radio's case as a heat sink to ensure the internal components remain cool so let's open the old girl up and take a look inside.



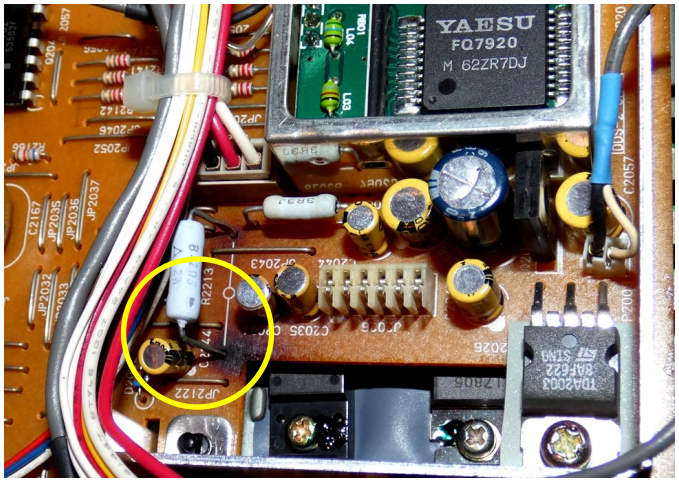
As can be seen very little inside this was a developing radio in its day and the size was being reduced from the boat anchor type with the development of the microchip and multi pin connections on the boards the obvious resistor has a dark heated area on the board so its not too hard to find the culprit.



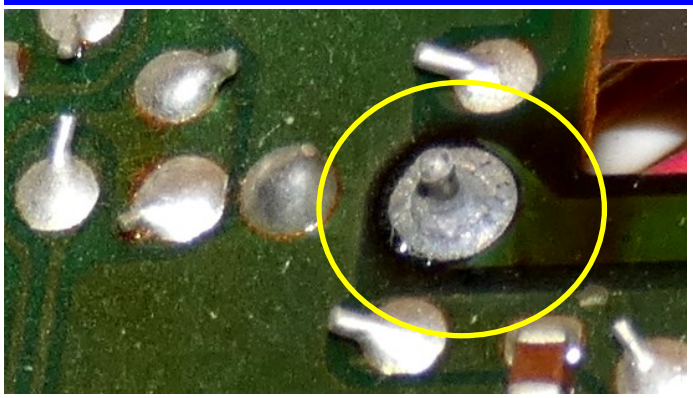
So looking around the board we can see a hot spot and the culprit a 8.2ohm/2W power resistor, It has been known and documented for some time that this resistor gets quite hot and starts discolouring the PCB and also even damaging it's solder joints on the board over time.



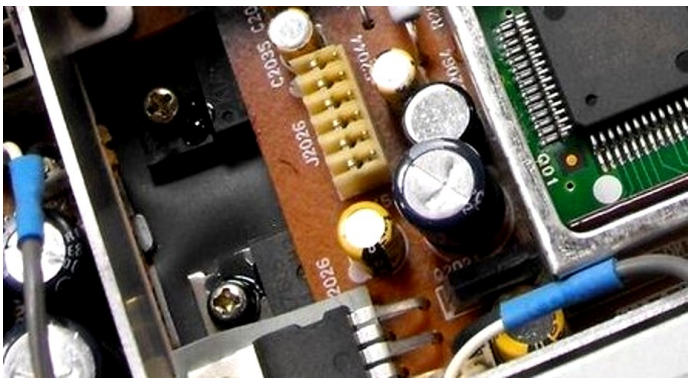
And there we have it simple little device but can cook the radio I lifted the lower radio cover of also to see if the board had been damaged and sure enough it was.



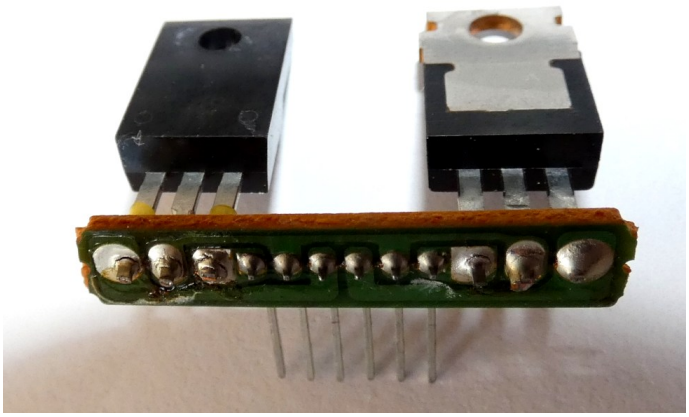
Saving it from the Bin



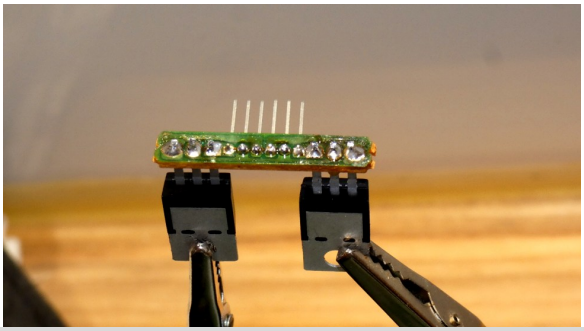
A replacement 30w chassis mount resistor was sourced and we then looked at what needed doing and I said may as well reseat the transistors and give the whole radio a good check over and it was just as well we did.



Here you can see the transistors they are mounted on a heat sink and on a small board with pins that protrude the pin connector seen here.

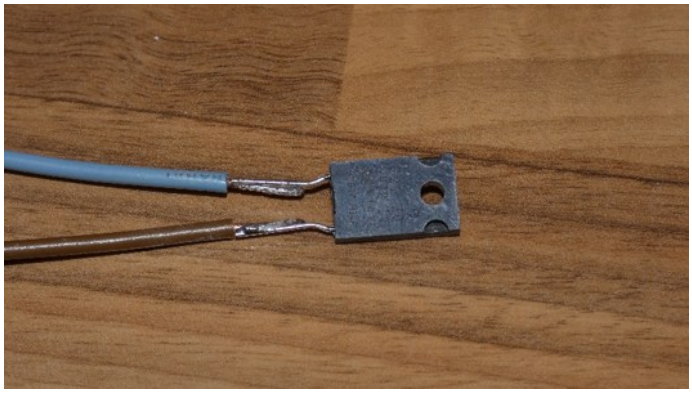


If you look close enough you can see some dry joints check pin one so worth while removing this component it also allows you to get at the underside of the resistor we want to remove, so this area was refloated and was as good as new and ready to refit.



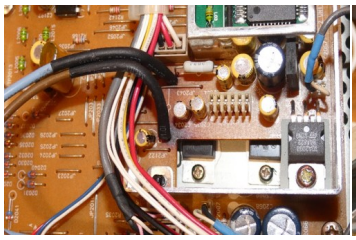
I could now get at the underside of the burnt resistor and lift it out I would replace it with a TO-220 type 8.2ohm/20W resistor, and would be mounting it to the rear panel of the radio to help cooling.

First thing is to give the resistor some legs to reach the back of the case and once soldered I then sleaved them with heatshrink and a nut and bolt for mounting.





Then it was a case of solder the ends onto the board and work out where I would mount the resistor and drill a hole as required I also reseated the transistors and was the resistor issue sorted and a straight forward modification.



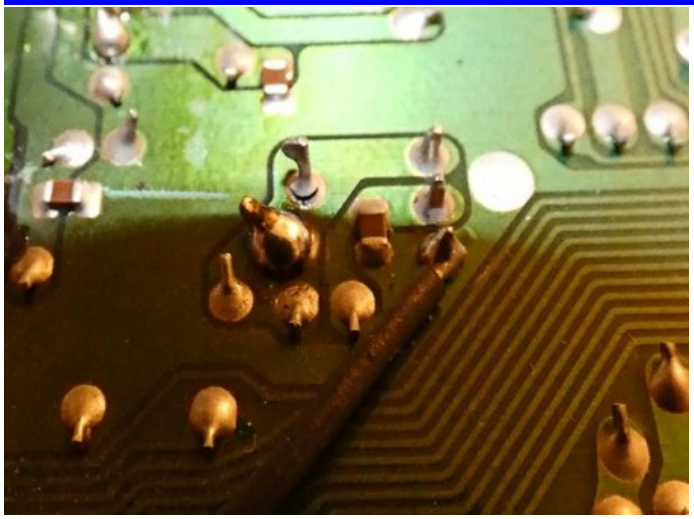


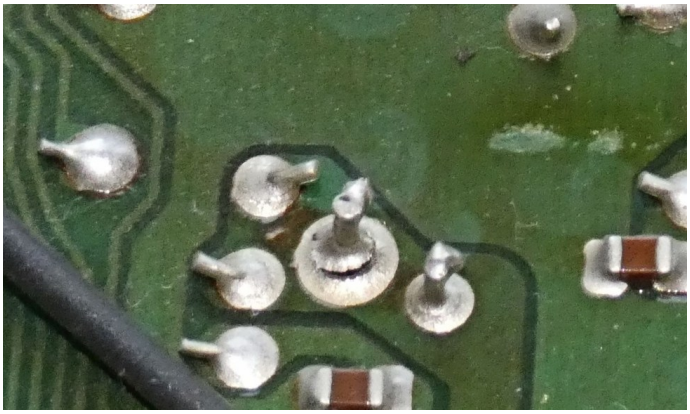
So while we have the radio open we may as well check the rest of this old girl, I must point out the radio was running pre this investigation but the resistor was a known fault that needed doing anyway.



The great thing these days is everyone has a phone and as such you have a great camara and magnifier so I scanned the main board in sections and then put them up on the main screen on

Saving it from the Bin

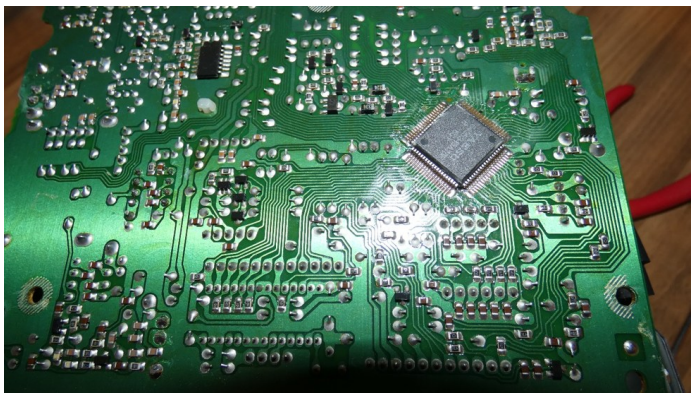




my PC and the results were astonishing dry joints everywhere I was amazed the radio worked so well.

After hours of sectioning the main board I was convinced I had found all the dry joints and refloated them it was a bit daunting but worth it I reassembled the radio and powered it up and again it was running like it always had.

This is a handy radio for a newbie nice and easy to work and saved from the bin too so hopefully it will run on for many years.



John Tubritt - EI3HQB
ei3hqb@gmail.com

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN RADIO AMATEURS AND LISTENERS

Churches and Chapels on the Air
C.H.O.T.A. 2026



THIS CERTIFICATE

IS AWARDED TO

EI3HRI



for having worked 8 or more CHOTA stations, operated by WACRAL members

Alistair 2E0TGF Awards Manager

John G3XYF C0-Founder

Churches on the Air with EI3HRI



Churches and Chapels on the Air (CHOTA) was started in 2006 by John (callsign G3XYF), a Christian farmer from East Yorkshire, who wanted to bring amateur radio activity to historic places of worship. The activation has grown from strength to strength each year, and 2026 was no exception, with the most stations to sign up to the program. This year EI3HRI decided it would participate, and the operator to take on the task was John EI6JOB. Being a relatively new operator (2 years), this would be a challenge and a big learning curve.



It was decided that Clonegam Church would be the ideal setting for CHOTA, situated in the small village of Portlaw, about 7 miles from Waterford city, the church itself is nestled into the countryside, overlooking Curraghmore estate and the Comeragh Mountains.

Clonegam Church is a historic, Gothic-style estate church located within the grounds of the Curraghmore Demesne near Portlaw in County Waterford, Ireland. Originally built in 1741, rebuilt or renovated in 1791/1794, and later restored in 2001.

Notable Features:

- Fine cut-stone masonry and historic grave markers dating from around 1750 to 1950.
- Interior tombs of prominent family members, including Sir Marcus Beresford (Earl of Tyrone) and Countess Catherine, as well as a monument to the 3rd Marquess of Waterford.
- A striking 1873 white marble sculpture of a reclining woman and her baby by renowned sculptor Sir Joseph Edgar Boehm.



What started off as a very wet Irish morning in Waterford for the first activation on CHOTA. Setting up the EFHW antenna in heavy rain, and high winds, was this an omen that this day could be a struggle? Once set up, the antenna was tuned to the Yaesu FT710, the 40m band was quiet at the beginning, logging only one or two stations, We settled for 7.153 and gave the call, within minutes the Church-to-Church stations began to roll in.



After an hour or so it got quiet as the WAE Contest was in full flow, so the bands were getting busier, the rest of the time was spend turning the dial looking for other CHOTA stations. In the end we completed almost 5 hours on the activation, logging a total of 59 stations which included 31 Church to Church Stations. I have enjoyed CHOTA from my home last year, but this year decided to give a go at activation.

So, if you feel you would like to participate, why not give it a go for 2027 even if a newbie like me

John O'Neil - EI6JOB
johnei6job@gmail.com

3rd Germany Berg-DX – A Fantastic Weekend of CB Radio





On September 26, 2026, the time had finally come again: the 3rd Germany Berg-DX was scheduled to begin at 22:00.

Of course, I had registered as a “head station for the CB Funkfreunde Hassberge” a week in advance. Choosing my operating location was not difficult this time. The decision was made quickly: Pirate Hill.

During the summer, we had completely overhauled the station at Pirate Hill. We removed the old antenna, refurbished the mast, installed a new antenna and coaxial cable, and extended the mast. With the work now completed, Pirate Hill was the obvious choice for the Berg-DX.

The radio gods were definitely on our side that Saturday. We were blessed with sunshine and temperatures of around 24°C (75°F).

Combining radio and good food

I had decided to combine the Berg-DX with a thank-you meal for my fellow members of the CB Funkfreunde Hassberge. The plan was simple: Pulled Pork prepared in a Dutch oven.

So I arrived at Pirate Hill at around 13:00.



Before making the army shelter ready for radio operations, I first lit a fire in our fire bowl. Once that was done, I concentrated on setting up the station.

The setup itself took barely ten minutes. Our permanent antenna installation uses a Sirio 827 mounted on the mast. We have a lockable box at the base of the mast where the coaxial cable can simply be connected. I only had to connect the other end of the coaxial cable, with its PL connector, to the socket inside my radio shelter.

A quick SWR check confirmed that everything was working perfectly.

Time for the first QSO.

Everything worked exactly as it should be

By then, the fire had burned down to glowing embers, so it was time to put the Dutch oven containing the meat onto the coals. Papa Whisky Sierra 6 joined me at Pirate Hill, and we spent some time making a few more QSOs.

While operating, I noticed something particularly encouraging: the 11-metre band was almost completely free of interference. That immediately increased my anticipation for the evening's Berg-DX.

At around 18:00, several more radio friends arrived. Since I had invited them for the meal, the Pulled Pork in honey-whisky BBQ sauce was, of course, ready to be served.

Unfortunately, not all of the CB Funkfreunde Hassberge members were able to attend. But there is an old saying: “Don't be disappointed by those who aren't there; be happy with those who came.”

With good food, drinks and plenty of conversation, the hours passed incredibly quickly.

Suddenly, the clock showed 21:55.

Only five minutes to go.

I headed into my radio shelter and tuned to Channel 2 USB, where the opening of the event was about to take place.

The 3rd Germany Berg-DX begins

Precisely at 22:00, the familiar opening song Bakersfield could be heard. Joachim / CB Schwarzwälder officially opened the 3rd Germany Berg-DX.

After a brief explanation of the event procedure, Joachim introduced the individual head stations and gave each operator the opportunity to announce their location and operating channel.

One by one, the head stations announced their mountains and the channels on which they would remain QRV until midnight.

When it was my turn, I proudly announced: “Pirate Hill near Haßfurt – Channel 34 USB, the home channel of

3rd Germany Berg-DX – A Fantastic Weekend of CB Radio

the CB Funkfreunde Hassberge".

Once all head stations had been introduced, Joachim said goodbye to everyone and sent the participants off to their respective channels. At midnight, all stations were asked to return to Channel 2 USB for the final review of the event.

I switched over to Channel 34 USB.

And then it happened.

An incredible pile-up almost immediately, an enormous wave of stations came crashing in.

The number of stations calling was so high that there was simply no time to record individual callsigns and operators. In the end, I could only keep a tally mark for every station worked.

But what made the evening truly special were the propagation conditions. They were absolutely fantastic.

Stations from considerable distances were reaching Pirate Hill with impressive signals. Connections of 200 kilometres and more were no problem under the conditions.

The pile-up continued, and keeping up with all the calling stations was genuinely hard work. But it was the kind of hard work every radio operator enjoys.

The enthusiasm on the frequency was enormous. 103 stations from Pirate Hill

As midnight approached, I finally decided to close my log.At 23:55, my tally stood at an impressive:103 STATIONS I switched back to Channel 2 USB to join the final round.

Joachim asked the head stations how the 3rd Germany Berg-DX had gone.

The response was unanimous: everyone was delighted with the propagation conditions.

When it was my turn, I reported my total of 103 stations worked. Among the locations reached from Pirate Hill were Munich, the Black Forest, the Swabian Jura, a town in Saarland close to the French border, and the Harz region, among many others.



Once again, Pirate Hill had demonstrated what an outstanding radio location it is.

Joachim was visibly impressed by the enthusiasm coming from the stations and eventually brought the official event to a close with a "Vy 73" and "SALUTI." The night was far from over...

For me, however, the radio weekend was not finished yet. After the Berg-DX, I continued operating together with my friends from the Bayernrunde and my friend Kucha Hans. We kept things lively on Channel 8 USB until around 04:00 in the morning. It was a fantastic way to end the night.

After only a few hours of sleep, I was back on the air at 10:00 for the Bayernrunde on Channel 8 USB. At 14:00, it was finally time to head home. Well... almost.

The shelter remained standing at Pirate Hill, because another appointment was already waiting.

At 20:00, I was scheduled to moderate the Sunday Round of the CB Funkfreunde Hassberge, transmitting from Pirate Hill on *Channel 34 USB.

A weekend that proved CB radio is alive and well

Looking back, it was an outstanding radio weekend. Great weather, good food, fantastic friends, excellent propagation and an incredible number of stations made the 3rd Germany Berg-DX something truly special. But more important than the numbers was the atmosphere on the radio.

Hundreds of kilometres were bridged by nothing more than CB radios, antennas and enthusiastic operators. Stations from different regions came together, exchanged signals and enjoyed the shared experience of radio.

For me, the weekend once again demonstrated just how much potential there is in CB radio—and how much fun our hobby can still provide.

Pirate Hill proved itself once again as a fantastic radio location. And most importantly:

The CB radio community is alive and well!



Mayo VHF Group Activities

EI8ORFC Special Event Station

On September 6th 2026, John EI7FAB and myself Joe EI3IX activated EI8ORFC to commerate Major Thomas Falcon Hazell DSO, MC, DFC & Bar (7th August 1892 – 4th September 1946), aviator and veteran of WW1. Major Hazell was the fifth most successful British "flying ace" of WW1.



We setup a short distance from Newport, Co. Mayo. Weather on the morning was very wet and windy with a nice temperature of 18c.

We were setup at 1315hrs. Slight mishap during putting up one of our Wimo hybrid masts, the base cracked!. Had it in a drive on mobile mast mount. Didn't think there was a lot of pressure on it as we were using our usual end fed long wire but it snapped.



Anyway, first station G3SAD/P in the log at 1324hrs on 7mhz. Initially busy to begin with as it was also SSB Field Day, so a number of strong Gs were worked.

We then moved to 14mhz, a few strong stations but hard worked, received a few reports of QSB, same on 18mhz and 15mhz. Nothing heard on 3.7mhz.



No EI stations heard or worked but then again propagation wise conditions have been long over the past while.

John EI7FAB was calling on 145.500mhz but unfortunately nothing logged on this occasion.

HF conditions on the day were poor, we only operated for 90min as 40M was beginning to drop off, 18mhz had also dried up so we called it a day.

We then visited Major Hazell's grave in Newport Town, its located at the grounds of the old Church of Ireland which is now in private ownership, access to the cemetery is allowed.

More detailed info can be found on https://www.qrz.com/ Mayo VHF Group will activate this Special Event call again a number of times before the end of 2026.

29/51/70 Alive

The ***29/51/70 Alive initiative*** is new and the 27th September was Irelands first Alive activation of these 3 bands by the Mayo VHF group. The initiative is based on the very successful 145 Alive which is held on four separate occasions throughout the year.

The whole purpose of the ***29/51/70 Alive*** is to promote the use of FM on these bands.

On the 27th of September Joe EI3IX was activating, and for the occasion we used our Special Event call EI8ORFC, activating station was located on Slieve Carn IO53LU elevation 1,000ft approx. in Co. Mayo.



The transceiver was an Icom IC-7300 as it covered all 3 bands.

The 51 frequency was 51.510mhz FM with 80w into a Diamond V2000, started transmitting at 1300hrs local, in the log were EI7FAB, EI2MRG, EI6GYB/P, EI2JHB, EI5MO, EI7IX and EI8FHB. ODX was EI8FHB who was located in IO52DF for a distance of 186km. Stevie was using an Icom IC-7300 with 50w into a Watson 627 magmount.

The 70 frequency was 70.450mhz FM with 20w into a Watson vertical mag-mount, started transmitting at

Mayo VHF Group Activities



1330hrs local, in the log were EI7FAB, EI2MRG, EI3GYB, EI2JHB, EI5MO, EI9JA and EI7MRE. ODX was EI2JHB who was located in IO54JC for a distance of 29km using 25w into an Antron vertical.

The 29 frequency was 29.600mhz FM with80w into an Antron vertical, started transmitting at 1410hrs local, in the log were EI7FAB, EI2MRG, EI9JA, EI7MRE, EI2JHB, EI5MO, EI3GYB, EI8FHB and EI5JOTA. ODX was EI8FHB who was located in IO52DF for a distance of 186km using 100w into a 10m Amp Pro whip.

I also recorded a few SSB contacts along the way with EI8FHB, EI2JHB, EI7IX and EI7FAB. A good day out contact wise apart from some tuning issues on 29/70 which will be sorted before the next day out on the hills. Thanks to all I worked, unfortunately I couldn't hear Andrew EI3FEB located in IO53KL who called on 51/70, hopefully next time.



The Mayo VHF Group activates all the Alive bands.

For further information on Alive activity see:

29/51/70 Alive: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1083013891048941/?ref=share

145 Alive: https://145alive.com

433 Alive: https://www.facebook.com/groups/937121657760723/

1296 Alive: https://www.facebook.com/groups/3598227720309266

Mayo VHF Group Update

In the next edition we will list the long line of activations/Field Days the Group has taken part in throughout 2026 such as SOTAs, Offshore island activations, Microwave Field day testing, Complete list and updates from all the Alive activations across 29mhz, 51mhz, 70mhz, 145mhz, 433mhz & 1296mhz which we took part in, Digital Voice updates on DMR/C4FM and DSTAR (Simplex). Radio Rallies visited and of course our plans for next year our 25th anniversary, we already have 2 big Special Commemoration Events lined up.

The Mayo VHF Group starts its activity each year on January 1st by welcoming in the new year from the top of Croagh Patrick operating 70mhz, 145mhz, 433mhz & 1296mhz along with DV usually C4FM and ending the year with a few SOTAs Christmas week.





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See: www.HamRadio.co.uk/topbytes

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Simply add USB power and connect to WiFi, and you have a dedicated DX "radar screen" for your favourite bands. The PRO version takes everything that made the original DXSpotter so useful and improves it with a larger touch screen display, clearer spot layout, propagation information and an even easier-to-read interface..... **£119.00**

DXSpotter WiFi DX Cluster Spot Display for Amateur Radio

The TopBytes DXSpotter is a compact, WiFi enabled DX cluster display that brings real time spot information straight into your shack – without needing a PC, laptop or tablet running all day. Just add USB power and WiFi, and you have a dedicated DX "radar screen" for your favourite bands. DXSpotter connects to your chosen DX cluster over the internet and shows live spots on its bright 256×64 yellow OLED display. Frequency, callsign and comment are clearly presented with smooth scrolling, a band title, WiFi signal icon and real time clock, so you can see band activity at a glance from across the room. **£59.95**



See: www.hamradio.co.uk/dxspotter

As the UK's Ham Radio Distributor of British made and designed SDRplay products, we have all models available ex-stock for immediate shipping.

SDRplay



SDRplay RSP1B - 14-bit SDR Receiver
Enhanced version of the popular RSP1A, offering a powerful wideband 14-bit SDR receiver that covers the RF spectrum from 1kHz to 2GHz..**£126.95**



NEW! SDRplay RSPdx-R2
Providing up to 10MHz Spectrum Display anywhere between 1kHz to 2GHz..... **£225.00**



SDRplay RSPduo
The ultimate Plug-in SDR. Dual Tuner 14-bit SDR **£239.95**
USB A-B Cable for SDR Play RSP **£2.65**

SDRplay Limited nRSP-ST
All-in-one, Plug-and-play Networked SDR Receiver

This exciting product addresses the needs of radio enthusiasts who want a 'plug-and-play' solution for remote reception.

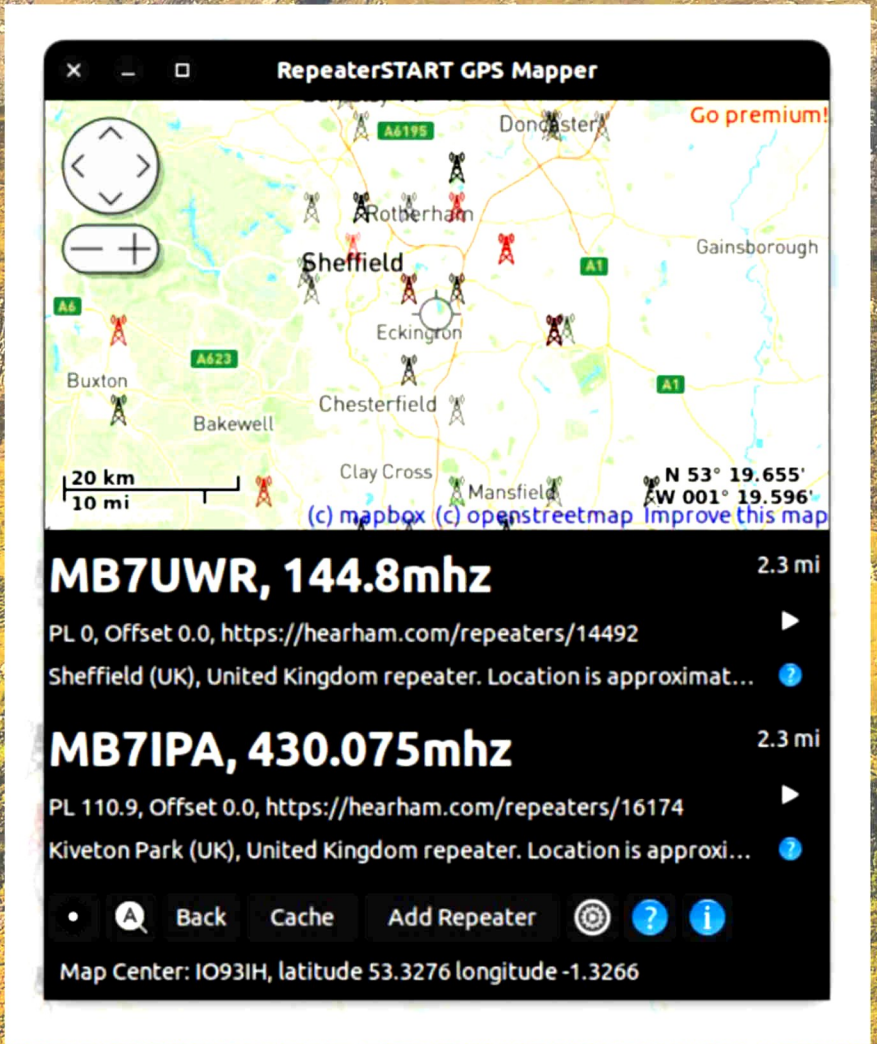
The nRSP-ST is a networked general coverage radio receiver for frequencies from 1kHz to 2GHz with up to 10MHz of spectrum visibility. The nRSP-ST is your own personal remotely accessible SDR which can also be shared with a small number of trusted friends or colleagues. **£399.00**



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DUAL IN-LINE

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- Easy-to-use controls



COMPACT IN-LINE

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- Hear weak signals clearly
- Easy to use with "real-time" audio adjustment
- Use with headphones or a loudspeaker



NES10-2 MK4

- 5W amplified DSP noise cancelling speaker
- 8 to 40dB noise cancelling
- Audio bypass feature
- Use mobile or base station
- Supplied with integral 2M audio lead, fused DC power lead & manual



DESKTOP MKII

- 10W Amplified DSP noise cancelling base station speaker
- Easy-to-use controls
- 8 DSP filter levels
- "Real-time" adjustment
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- Loudspeaker and line-level inputs



NEDSP1962-KBD

- Amplified DSP noise cancelling PCB module
- Easy to install retrofit module
- Audio bypass feature
- Simple control with LED and audio indication

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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.

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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:

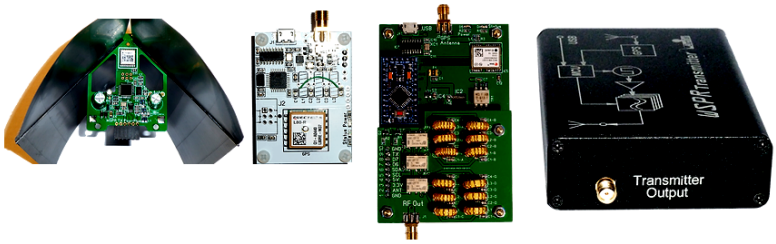
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Welcome to ZachTek, here you will find RF related products and information.
Some of my more popular products are different models of WSPR transmitters that is made for the radio amateur that wants a standalone transmitter for mobile or stationary use.
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Many projects here are capable of transmitting and receiving WSPR

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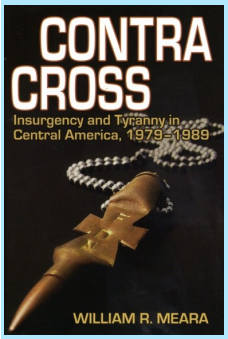


Co Host - Dean KK4DAS

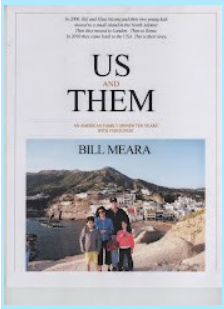


Co Host - Pete N6QW

https://soldersmoke.blogspot.com/



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

It's that time of year again! Our annual ML&S Open Day is back and, once again, we'll be throwing open the doors and welcoming customers from far and wide.

The shop will be transformed into something resembling one of our famous rally stands, with heaps of gear piled high and prices slashed especially for the day. All the big names, including Yaesu, Icom, and Kenwood, will be well represented, with plenty of stock ready and waiting to find a new home! As usual, we'll also be keeping everyone fed and watered with FREE bacon butties, burgers, cakes and hot drinks throughout the day. What more could you want?

And how much does all this cost to get in? Absolutely NOTHING! Yes, admission is still completely FREE - we must be mad!

Got some trade-ins gathering dust in the shack? Bring them along! We'll be offering something extra special on trade-ins for the day, so it could be the perfect excuse for an upgrade.



YouTube

If you've never been to a Lynchy Open Day before, watch our YouTube video from the 2025 event.

Think of it as a mini rally from the good old days. You don't have to spend a penny (although naturally we'd be delighted if you did!). Come along, have a chat, meet fellow Hams, look at plenty of radio gear and enjoy a complimentary hot lunch while you're here.

We've got plenty of space, parking is FREE with no yellow lines to worry about and we're safely outside the ULEZ zone. Travelling by train? Staines station is on the mainline from Waterloo and is only a four-minute walk from the store.

Best 73, Martin Lynch G4HKS

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