



Ham Radio Ireland



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August 2026



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 competition 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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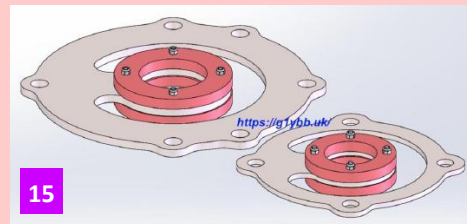
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Submitting Items for This Magazine

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

DARC B37
Field Day
DK5TRB
Satellite Station

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 RI 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>

EURAO European Radio Amateurs' Organization

the open global radio amateurs community



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

Association, clubs, groups and individuals are part of this young, global and open ecosystem called European Radio Amateurs' Organization. Thanks to all for your support.

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 W11IDP, 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>



25th & 26th September 2026



BIWota British Inland Waterways On The Air 2026

Saturday 29th to Monday 31st August

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.

We even include lakes and reservoirs that are used for recreation uses, so there are many places for activating.

Many clubs and individual Amateurs on or near the UK inland waterways obtain Special Event Station (SES) callsigns. Others operate mobile or portable using their own callsigns.

Many more like to contact the BiWota stations.

It is also a good chance for WAB enthusiasts to get some rare WAB squares.

If you are interested in taking part in the event please register at www.nharg.org.uk/biwota

We look forward to hearing you on the air.

Photograph by Che Letton - Grand Union Canal

Ham Fest 2026 Aug 8-9

EI3CC

come and see us at Hamfest demo's of QO-100 and various portable set up's

Eircode N91HXHO

Intenational Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend 15th - 16th August 2026



This major event which takes place in August is the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend, [ILLW](http://illw.net), which came into being in 1998 as the Scottish Northern Lights Award run by the Ayr Amateur Radio Group.

The history of this event can be found elsewhere on this site. The ILLW usually takes place on the 3rd full weekend in August each year and attracts over 500 lighthouse entries located in over 40 countries. It is one of the most popular international amateur radio events in existence probably because there are very few rules and it is not the usual contest type event.

It is also free and there are no prizes for contacting large numbers of other stations.

In Britain the Association of Lighthouse Keepers, conducts International Lighthouse Heritage Weekend on the same weekend as the ILLW in August. Their objective is to encourage Lighthouse managers, keepers and owners to open their lighthouse or lightstation and related visitors centres to the public with a view to raising the profile of lighthouses, lightvessels and other navigational aids, and preserving our maritime heritage.

For more information and registration: <https://illw.net/>

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 hear 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

National Coding Week 2026



Coding and amateur radio

National Coding week occurs between the **14th and 20th of September 2026**. This is a fantastic opportunity for to build confidence in digital skills and explore the world of programming. Thanks to RSGB Maker Champion Tom Wardill, 2E0JJI, and his Python Pocket Morse activity last year, you will have learned Morse code and how to write code in Python. In

this activity we see how the BBC micro:bit can be used to send Morse code on either a telegraph wire or wirelessly. The challenge is to see how far your transmissions will travel.

Spark a little curiosity comparing increasing forces and energy use with this fun micro:bit activity. Using the radio function to send data between two micro:bits to visualise and record how increased force creates a higher pitched noise in the receiver. Take your devices out and test in different scenarios, an accelerating car, jumping on a trampoline, or kicking a ball.

This activity is short and simple, using the cheap Raspberry Pi Pico 2W. It is a demonstration of Pulse Width Modulation and uses just a couple of components, an LED and a resistor. It will give a better understanding of the concept of duty cycle. The programming uses the Arduino IDE rather than Python, leading to an introduction to the language of the Arduino. There are many further exciting applications of the Pico to amateur radio. **RSGB**



Nervous Novices CW NET
Wednesday Evening

21.00 TUC Local Time

Listen out for CQ "NNCW"

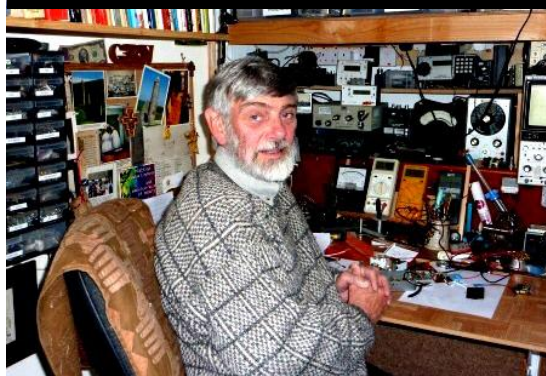
The speed is the Net is the speed of the slowest operator

Net Controller Eamo EI7LC

Freq is 7.035 +/- So call in and say hello



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



World CB, Ham Radio News and Updates



World CB, Ham Radio & Updates is 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 free to join us.



For those of you who are 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 the site for many more new awards of interest may be found on this site.

**The 14th Dublin Maker
is on the horizon - and
it will be better than
ever!**

**Join us at Leopardstown
Racecourse on Saturday
22nd and Sunday 23rd
August 2026 for a weekend
packed with creativity,
invention, innovation and
hands-on making.**

News and Forthcoming Events Planning



IRTS HAMFEST 2026
Mullingar Showgrounds, Co. Westmeath, N91 HXHO
AUGUST 8TH 12PM – AUGUST 9TH 4PM
FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL



 Come along to learn, teach and get on the air – antennas, masts, Hex Beams, verticals, Spider Beams, nanoVNA demos, digital modes (FT8, RTTY), CB, coax and feeders, amplifiers, satellite and moonbounce operation, CW, vintage radios, contesting, soldering, car boot sale (Sunday from 12pm)
 Overnight camping with camper vans welcome – no charge!

 More info: irts.ie/hamfest •  Email: hamfest@irts.ie

GQRP Convention: September 5th and 6th - 2026



The 2026 Convention will be at the Harper Adams University Campus, near Telford, TF10 8NB. The convention will commence on Saturday afternoon with the Buildathon. That will be followed by a social gathering with a buffet supper. The Buildathon is planned to start at 2pm. and will take place in one of the seminar rooms on the first floor of the main building (same as for the last two years for those returning). We will attempt to put up signs to direct newcomers



KILDARE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
★ BUY & SELL ★
EXTRAVAGANZA
SUNDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2026



Amateur radio operators, CB radio operators and SWLs come together for a great day of buying, selling, swapping and chatting. Anyone interested in the hobby is very welcome to attend. Traders are welcome too.

BRING ALONG YOUR SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

- Radios
- Antennas
- Receivers
- Power supplies
- SWR & power meters
- Yagi / vertical antennas
- Antenna tuners
- Hand-held radios
- Repeaters
- Cables, fittings & fixtures
- ...and much more

Place your items on a table for sale, trade or swap – it's up to you – or come along and buy items of your choice.

TABLES ARE FREE
Book by email: info@kildarearc.com
Reserve your table in advance

VENUE
GAA Football Club
Kill Village
Co. Kildare
W91 XP95

TIME
Doors open: 11:00am – 1:30pm
Traders admitted 1 hour earlier for set-up

ENTRY
€5 per person at the door
Children under 12 go free

A NICE FUN DAY OUT FOR ALL CONCERNED

- Meet old radio friends, have a chat and enjoy the local atmosphere.
- Head into the local bar for refreshments, or enjoy the food area in the GAA clubhouse from 12:30pm onwards.
- Or just have a coffee with an operator and catch up.

EASY ACCESS

- N7** Easy access to and from the N7 motorway via Junction 7 or Junction 8
- P** Ample parking at the clubhouse

For more details visit:
www.kildarearc.com

Map link:
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/K2sQFUYVe3XhkbZZ36>

See you there!
KILDARE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

2026 Events & Activities Planner

Stradbally Steam Rally	1st - 3rd August
IRTS HamFest (Mullingar)	8th - 9th August
ILLW Lighthouses on the Air	15th - 16th August
ILLW Lighthouses on the Air	21st - 22nd August
Dublin Maker Festival	22nd - 23rd August
British Inland Waterways on the Air	29th - 31st August
G QRP Convention/Telford Ham Fest	30th - 31st August
Newark Ham Fest	25th - 26th Sept
Masonic Lodges on the Air	26th September
Railways on the air	26th - 27th Sept
JOTA Scouts on the Air	16th - 18th October
Kildare ARC Buy & Sell	18th October




BUSHVALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
— WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE —
INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS WEEKEND
FROM ALL 4 LIGHTHOUSES ON
RATHLIN ISLAND



DATE & TIME (UTC)
00.01 UTC
15th AUGUST 2026
TO
24.00 UTC
16th AUGUST 2026
(48 HOURS)

WE WILL BE ACTIVE ON ALL BANDS

 PHONE  DIGITAL  CW  QQ-100

CALLSIGNS
GB1RP GB2EL GB2WL

Lighthouses Unite – QSO Around the World!
— CONNECTING PEOPLE, PRESERVING HERITAGE —

 LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITIES  ILLW INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSES & LIGHTSHIPS WEEKEND  ilitw.net



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 Ballycraig 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 at 8pm in the Shorts Recreation Club, Aircraft Park, Hollywood Road, Belfast BT4 1SL. Contact Paul Irwin GI6FEN for more information E-mail: paulirwin@btinternet.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





I.R.T.S. HAMFEST 2026



AUGUST 8TH 12PM TILL AUGUST 9TH 4PM

Mullingar Showground

Cullionbeg

Mullingar

Co Westmeath

N91 HXH0

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!!

**Come along to learn or teach with the following just
some of what's on display.**

**Antennas, Masts, Hex Beams, Verticals, Spider Beams,
Audio settings, Digital modes, Nano vna, Rtty, FT8,
Coax, Amplifiers, Feeders, Headsets, Car boot sale
(Sunday), Moonbounce, CW, Vintage radios, Overnight
Camping Camper vans welcome, Audio, Logging,
Contesting, Soldering, and much much more!**



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Web: www.hamradio.co.uk E-mail: sales@hamradio.co.uk
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri: 8.30am to 5pm. Sat: 9am to 4.30pm

E&OE

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www.HamRadio.co.uk

FlexRadio

Aurora AU-510M & AU-520M. In stock NOW!

FlexRadio Aurora AU-510M
500W Integrated SDR
Transceiver (With Screen).
The World's First Fully
Integrated 500W SDR
Transceiver.



Introducing the Aurora AU-510M from FlexRadio – a revolutionary SDR transceiver delivering a true 500W of RF output in a compact, all-in-one design. Built for modern amateur radio operators, the AU-510 redefines station architecture by integrating the transceiver, amplifier, automatic tuner, and power supply into a single chassis. **£7349.00**
FlexRadio Aurora AU-510 (Without Screen) **£6199.00**

FlexRadio AU-520M

Dual SCU 500W Integrated SDR
Transceiver (With Screen)
The Next Evolution in High-Power SDR.



The AU-520M is part of FlexRadio's revolutionary Aurora™ Series—a new class of HF/6m transceivers that combines the transceiver, 500W amplifier, automatic tuner, and power supply into a single, compact system. Designed for operators who demand high performance and modern convenience, the AU-520 offers unmatched efficiency, integration, and flexibility. **£9599.00**
FlexRadio AU-520 (Without Screen) **£8599.00**

Flex Maestro Control Console

The Maestro™ is an intuitive, plug-and-play control console that directs the operation of any Flex-6000 or 8000 Signature Series transceiver without the need for a traditional PC. Connect Maestro directly or through your local area network (LAN) to any Flex-6000 or 8000 series transceiver and you are ready to operate. **£1599.00**



FlexRadio 8000 Series

The FLEX 8000 Series revolutionise your view of the bands with up to two 7MHz spectrum waterfall displays and independent receivers. These dual receivers can simultaneously operate on any band and mode with instant QSY between VFOs, perfect for digital mode and remote operations.



Special Price!

Flex-8600M With screen Free Shackmaster PSU **£5499.00**
Flex-8600 Without screen Free FlexControl **£4599.00**
Flex-8400M With screen Free FlexControl **£3599.99**
Flex-8400 Without screen **£2449.99**

ML&S Exclusive FLEX Distributor for UK

Elad SDR products available at ML&S

Elad FDM-DUO
5W - Multi use SDR
Transceiver

The FDM-DUO is a game-changer - a top-end SDR with dials and knobs! This transceiver has a 5W output that can operate as a stand-alone unit, without a PC! Connected to a PC, FDM-DUO is a very modern SDR receiver and transmitter with capabilities which are usually available in very large radios only. **£899.00**



Elad TM-2

Console for SDR Radio TMate2 allows the control of main functions of SDR software as FDM-SW2, PowerSDR and Perseus. Intended mainly to allow the use of SDR software without the need to watch the screen of the PC, or when the screen of the PC is crowded by various programs such as LOG or software for DIGITAL operations or CONTEST. **£269.95**



Apache Labs SDR products available at ML&S

APACHE LABS
SOFTWARE DEFINED RADIOS

ANAN-G1
100W HF & 6M
SDR Transceiver

State-of-the-art SDR transceiver designed for amateur radio enthusiasts and professionals alike. 100W output power, covering HF and 6M bands with exceptional performance.

Final Price & Delivery TBC. £50 Deposit secures yours.



Introducing the ANAN-G2E

The ANAN-G2E represents the next evolution in affordable, high-performance Software Defined Radios, building on the proven OpenHPSDR platform and offering seamless compatibility with Thetis software. Designed for operators who demand uncompromising performance without breaking the bank, the G2E delivers exceptional capability in a compact, value-driven package.

Quite simply, the ANAN-G2E is the best bang for the buck in the entire SDR market. £1995.00



Xiegu products available at ML&S

Xiegu GPA100

100W Solid State HF Linear
Amplifier. **£419.95**

Compact 100W solid-state HF/6m linear amplifier designed for portable and home station use. It features smart cooling, built-in protection circuits and full coverage from 1.8-54MHz. Seamless integration with current Xiegu transceivers, including the X6200, X6100, G90, and G106.



Xiegu G90

HF 20W SDR Transceiver. **£379.96**

Portable 20W HF amateur radio transceiver with an SDR architecture and built-in automatic antenna tuner.



Xiegu X6100

Ultra Portable Shortwave
Transceiver Radio. **£489.95**

Adopting SDR software radio platform architecture with excellent performance, which carries powerful baseband and RF, bringing a brand-new recognition and experience on amateur radio.



Xiegu X6200

HF/50MHz Compact-type Integrated
& Portable Amateur Radio
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See: www.HamRadio.co.uk/topbytes

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See: www.hamradio.co.uk/dxspotter

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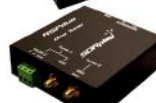
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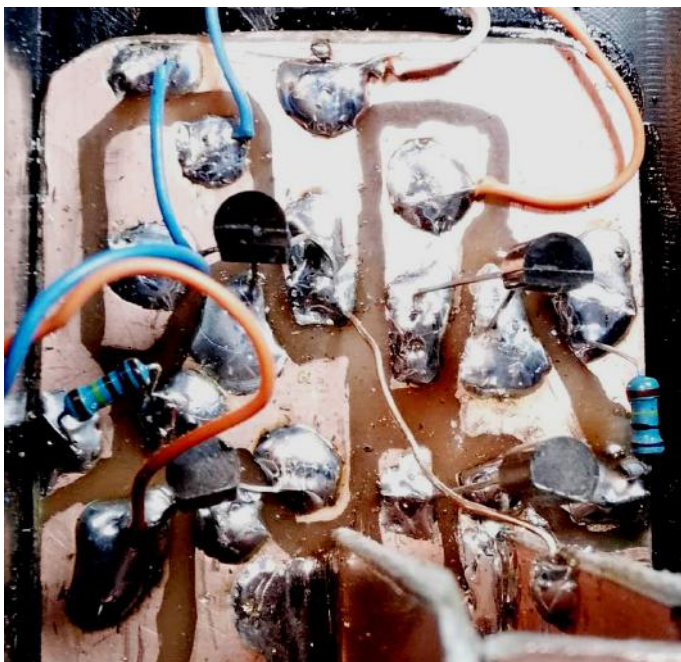
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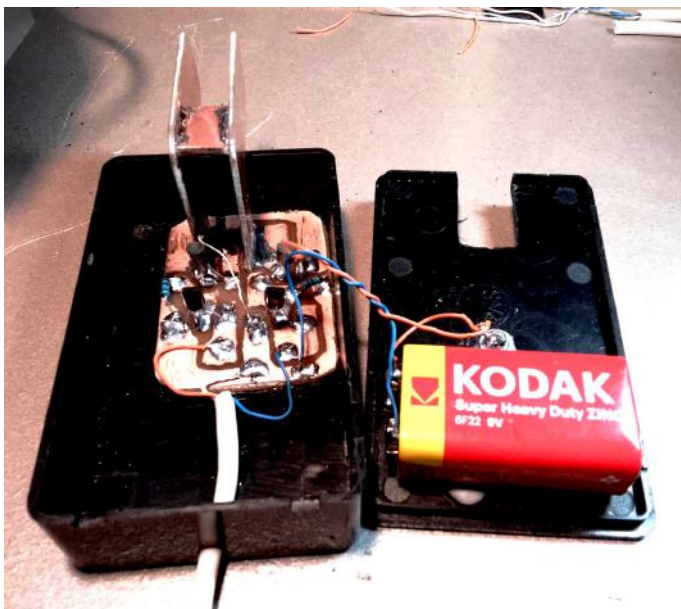
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A Simple and Inexpensive Set of Homebrew Iambic Paddles

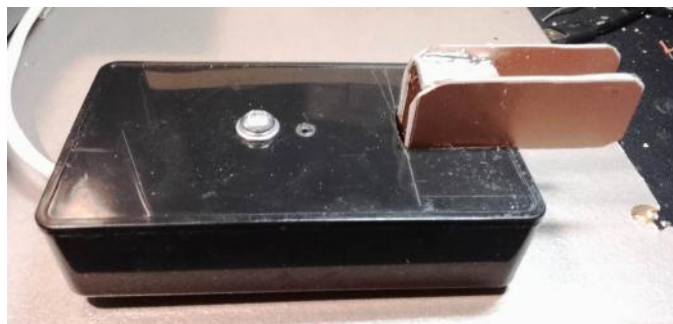
As John states on his schematic, the choice of transistors is not critical. I used BC548 NPN transistors and BS170 MOSFETS, simply because I already had them. I designed the PCB to facilitate these devices. Therefore, if using other devices, be aware of different pinouts for correct connection to the PCB (if using one). In my case, I etched the PCB so that the flat faces of the four transistors all face towards the paddles. Obviously, if other devices were used, I would have had to orientate them on my PCB to suit their pinouts and the PCB.



Note the ground wire going to the inner surfaces of one paddle. A small piece of PCB is soldered to both inner sides externally to brace the paddles and to keep them apart. Through this small bridging piece, both inner surfaces are grounded, thus shielding the two outer touch surfaces from each other. Also, note that the positive terminal of the battery is soldered to the end of the bolt on the lid, which acts as a touch-pad (alternative to wrist strap). On SOTA or POTA activations, I have never found it an inconvenience to have to place one finger of my other hand on the bolt.



I used BluTack to secure the battery. Note also the slot in the lid to accommodate the paddles. I found that the box was slightly too shallow to accommodate the battery, making it a little difficult to close the lid. I could have, and should have removed more of the outer covering of the cable to give added depth for the battery. However, I had already secured the cable to the box with glue when I realised this.



The completed unit worked perfectly first time. I also used BluTack to secure the unit to the shack bench. A photograph of the PCB and its connections is shown below. For any questions, you can drop me an email.



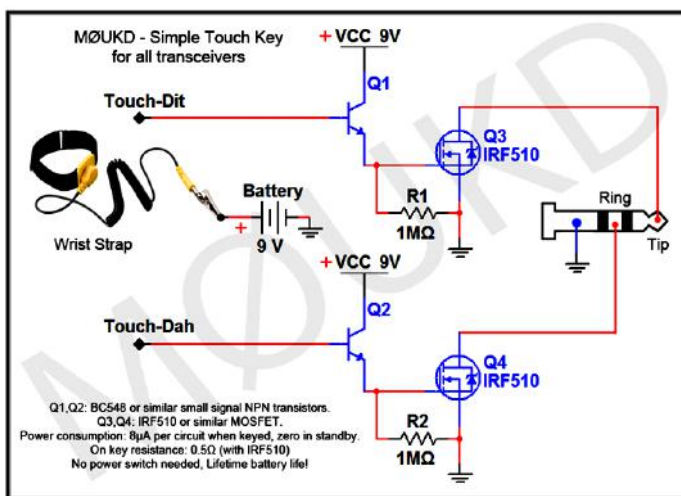
I have built several of these touch paddle units, but one in particular nearly drove me insane. As soon as my hand went within a few centimetres of the the paddles, the unit just took off, sending spurious dits and dahs. I spent hours swapping components, all to no avail. I eventually twigged what was happening. To save etching solution, I had made the pads on the PCB where the paddles solder to the board too large. My conclusion is that the large pads were acting as capacitors, causing the circuit to trigger as soon as my hands were nearby, even before the paddles were touched. It brought back

A Simple and Inexpensive Set of Homebrew Iambic Paddles

QRP CW is my sole HF mode of transmission. I have built many QRP rigs, kits and home designed. Each build has given me a great sense of satisfaction. However, my main HF transceiver is my nine-band EGV-9B Five-Watter from qrphamradiokits.com, in Spain. It's not an SDR unit, but a traditional superhet. It has given me endless hours of pleasure, topped-off with a Five-Watt contact with ZL2LI in New Zealand. I have made several modifications and enhancements to this rig, including several accessories.

One of the accessories is an iambic touch key, from a design by John Parfrey, M0UKD. It's simple and inexpensive to construct, with four transistors, two resistors and a 9 Volt battery. Of course, an enclosure, a stereo plug and material for the paddles are also required. I used two offcuts of double-sided PCB material for the paddles. I am grateful to John for allowing me to use the information on his homebrew website for this article.

John's original diagram is attached. When used outdoors, such as on a SOTA or a POTA activation, the wrist-strap will probably be necessary. However, I used a touch-pad on top of the enclosure, as an alternative to the wrist strap, but more of that anon.



The project consists of two identical circuits side by side, one for dits and one for dahs. Each paddle is connected to the base of an NPN transistor, touching the paddle switches the transistor on, by applying the induced mains domestic AC voltage in the human body to the base. The NPN transistor then triggers it's partnered MOSFET transistor and keys the transceiver, via the stereo lead and plug.

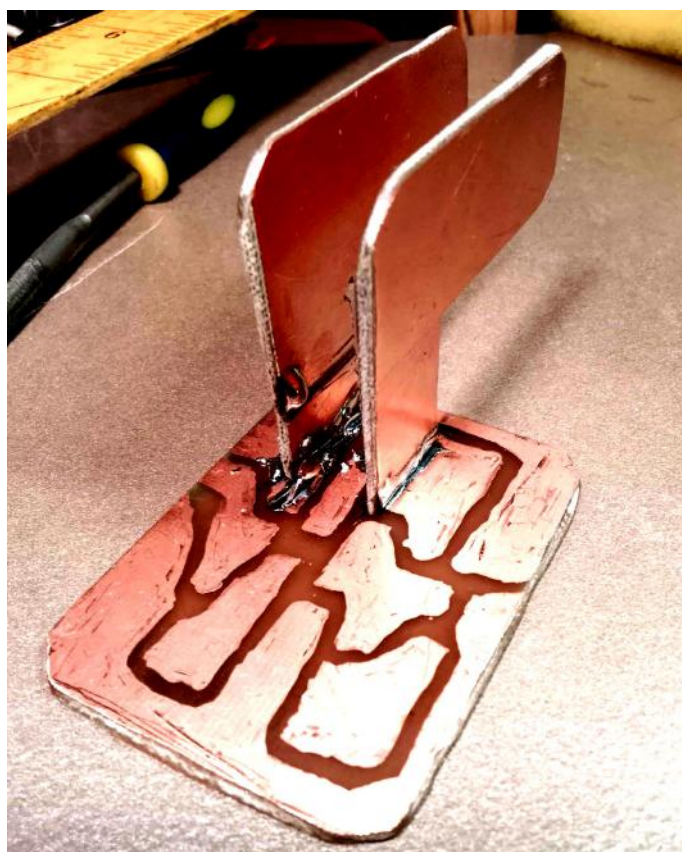
When out and about, where there is no induced AC voltage present, touching the metal pad on top of the enclosure will be necessary. This triggers the NPN transistor by applying voltage from the positive battery terminal to the base of the NPN transistor, through the high resistance of the body! There is no need for a power switch, as the circuit uses no current in standby mode, and even when keyed, each half of the circuit uses less than 10uA. Therefore, the battery should last for many years. For that reason, I didn't use a battery clip, but simply soldered directly to the battery terminals.



Several methods of construction are possible with such a simple circuit, including ugly-bug, Manhattan style or even on perforated strip-board. I designed and etched a PCB so that the L-shaped paddles solder directly onto it. It's a hand-drawn PCB, not very pretty, but it works. It measures 4cm x 6cm. I cut the paddles to size with a junior hacksaw, to suit my enclosure. However, you will notice, from the attached photographs that one side of each paddle is scored just above where it is soldered to the PCB. When lined up, I glued the PCB to the bottom of the enclosure.

When soldered to the PCB, the two scored sides of the paddles face each other. Above the score line, both inner surfaces are wired to ground (battery negative). **This is very important.**

Through experience, with previous similar builds, I discovered that this was necessary to shield the outer surfaces of the two paddles from each other to prevent spurious keying of both paddles at the same time.



A Simple and Inexpensive Set of Homebrew Iambic Paddles

memories of the first receiver I ever built in the early 1960s. It was a regenerative single valve set, the ubiquitous HAC (Hear All Continents!). When I'd remove my hand from the tuning knob, having tuned in a station, the receiver would go slightly off frequency due to hand capacitance. So a word of warning; keep the paddle pads on the PCB small.



Another unit that I built would also take off in a similar fashion, but that problem was not related to the PCB pad size .Capacitance again! The solution was to screen the paddles from each other. To achieve this I used double sided copper board for the paddles and grounded the two inner faces, as already explained. I have also found that it is more reliable to put a finger on the nut and bolt, which is connected to the battery +9V, rather than rely on induction from the domestic mains. In any case, when



operating out portable, this will become a necessity, the body acting as a high resistance between +9V and the bases of the NPN transistors, when the paddles are touched •

References

John Parfrey's (MOUKD) website is www.mOukd.com

Details of the EGV-9B on www.qrphamradiokits.com

My own YouTube Channel is www.youtube.com/@EI5EM

Video of similar project <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iZgOv6NxJU>

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ei5emtony@gmail.com



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A Low Cost Beacon Project

I was seeking a simple low cost way of transmitting a beacon at regular intervals. Obviously, an Arduino or Raspberry Pi would be the first choice, but they require programming. Trawling through YouTube, I found an interesting video by G7NLK using a simple Timer module and a Record playback module both of which were available at very cheap prices. You could buy the two modules for less than 10 Euro.

I wanted a simple beacon that would send out recorded voice or CW tones as necessary. The Audio output could be fed into a microphone socket of a Handheld or higher-powered portable setup or from the home station.

Rather than complicate things. I chose to use the VOX facility on the Baofeng Handheld or from the shack Radio. One could supply voltage to a 5 volt relay from the Timer module to switch the PTT if required..

The Timer Module had a number HW-521, I chose the module with the relay although there is a CMOS version. The Record/Playback module was numbered ISD1829. Both modules are powered with 5 volts and draw very little current. It would be possible to run these from a Lithium Iron Battery Pack with a small solar panel.

The audio output level from the playback module is a little high for feeding directly into the average handheld so a bit of twiddling suggests placing 4.2KΩ resistor in series to reduce the level. This may need a bit of trial and error so maybe a potentiometer set around 4.2KΩ and then try either side of that value for best quality.

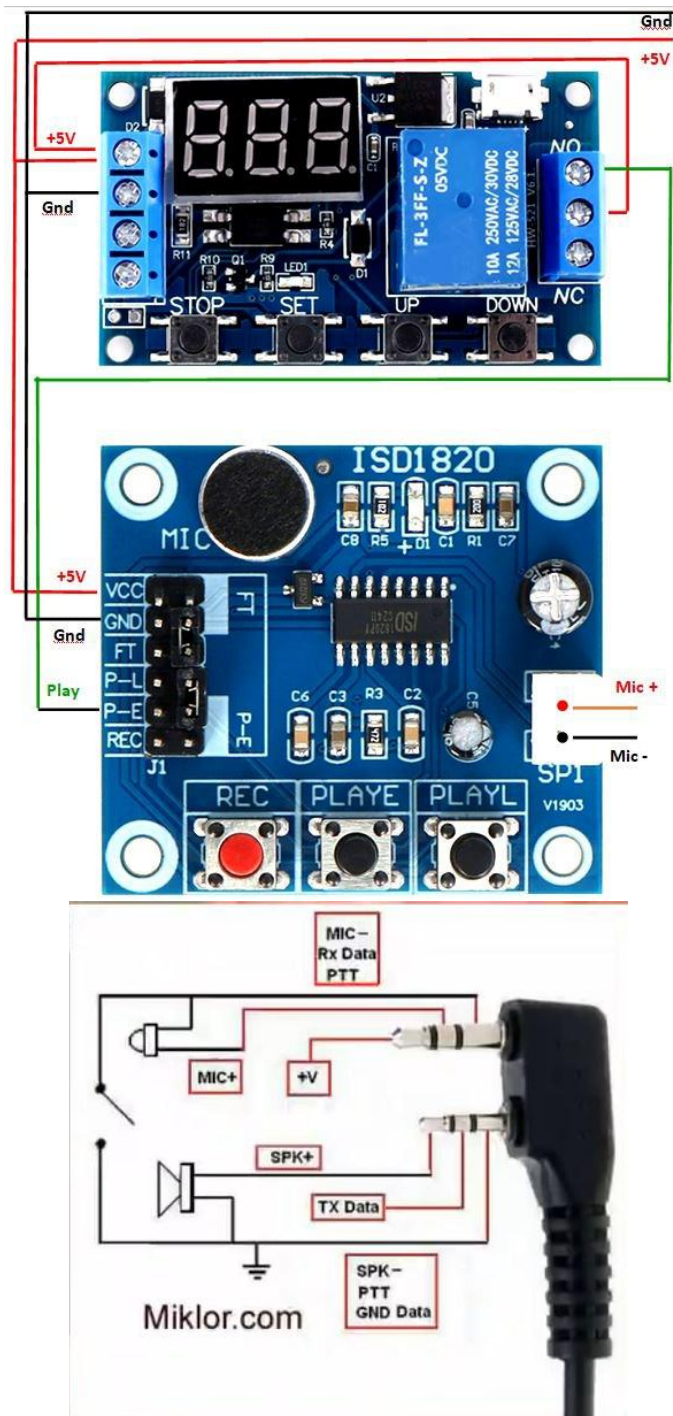
The diagrams show the wiring of the system and the pinout of the Baofeng UV5R.

Ideally if testing an antenna from a portable location this set up in conjunction with a Handheld such as a Baofeng UV5R would be ideal and then drive around to see how the antenna performs. A Higher power could be transmitted from the mobile rig or from the home QTH. This system could also be used with a HF transceiver.

The default time of 10 seconds of recorded Audio is more than sufficient for a Callsign announcement plus location. If you check the reference material for the Record Playback Board it is possible to replace a resistor to increase the record/playback time in steps of 5 seconds as in 100KΩ equates to 10 seconds (default) 150KΩ to 15 Seconds and 200KΩ to 20 seconds.

I programmed the timer for the P3.2 Mode which switches the playback module on for 10 seconds, counts down for 300 seconds before transmitting again. You can set as required and dictate the number of cycles or set to infinity. **See the reference material.**

The system could be used as a cheap foxhunt transmitter and as the whole set up takes little space and could be mounted in a weather proof plastic box alongside the battery and the handheld. This would be easy enough to hide and given the low current draw on the battery, it could last for the entirety of the event. Several of these could be built and then set to transmit at different intervals. Definitely a cheap way to set up for an event •



Reference Material

<https://www.phippselectronics.com/support/isd1820-voice-recorder-module-user-guide/?srsId=AfmBOoq87-kAhL3eRwEH5aYXrImueQvzrVEaVcPCA5CDxu4IuljyG38>

[\[2 Pack\] DC 6-30V Timer Relay Programmable Delay Relay Module Cycle Timer with LED Display / 5V Micro USB, Smart Home Controller User Manual](#)

G7NLK has a YouTube Video of the wiring and setup of the system: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lh6ErzoMqgE&t=307s>

Steve- EI5DD

wright14@gmail.com

G1YBB Coax Loop Free Guy Rings

In the beginning....

I decided that I was tired of having to make a big coax loop around the guy ropes in my portable setups in order to be able to rotate the mast. It's never ideal and also on windy days the coax can be waving back and forth continuously, potentially creating fatigue to expensive feeders. So I designed my own guy rings to overcome this problem.

Short form data

Large Guy Ring

Mast size: Std: Ø2" or scaffold pole. Specials down to Ø40mm
Guying: 6 holes Ø13mm for 3 and 4 guy systems
Slot width: 25mm (passes N and PL259 plugs)
Weight: 1115 grams

Small Guy Ring

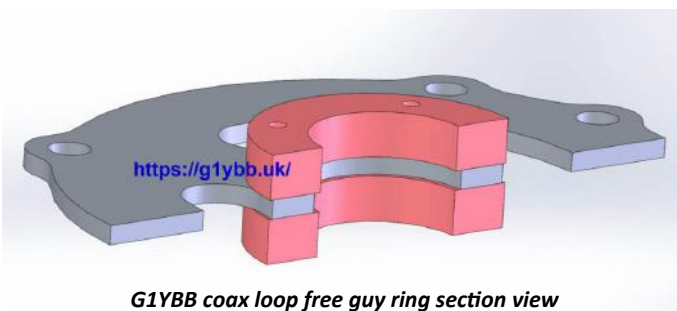
Mast size: standard Ø1.5" (38.1mm). Specials down to Ø20mm
Guying: 4 holes Ø12mm
Slot width: 23mm (passes N and PL259 plugs)
Weight: 350 grams

These have a slot inside the circle of guy rope attachment points so the coax can be run straight down the pole and not foul on the guy ropes. A small amount of slack in the coax gives enough movement to cover the azimuth degrees with no slot. I always erect the mast so that the no slot portion is to my least pointed direction so the coax rarely even reaches there.



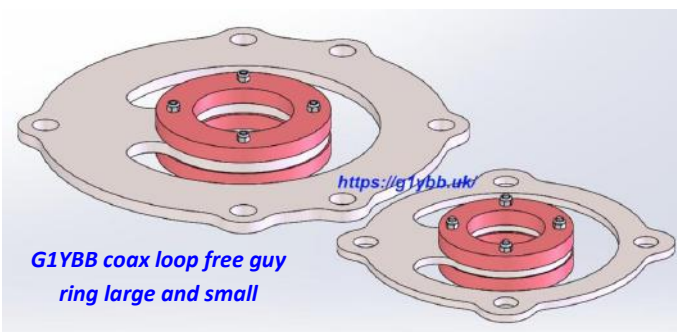
You can see how neat it makes the setup with 2 feeders running down the mast.

To protect the pole and the coax from the stainless steel guy rings I sandwich the ring between two plastic bearings which overhang the internal and external diameters of the center part of the guy rings:



G1YBB coax loop free guy ring section view

I designed two sizes of ring to suit my requirements, a smaller lightweight version for my back-packers setup and a larger one to suit my car portable setup using bigger poles.



G1YBB coax loop free guy ring large and small

G1YBB guy ring – small

The smaller ring is designed to fit 1.5 inch (38.1mm) max poles and is 4mm thick stainless. The coax slot is 23mm wide which will pass an N type plug easily. Weight is approx. 350 grams.



There are 4 guy rope holes 12mm in diameter. I use this myself for backpacking, both on a short single yagi pole and also using two on a 10m high array mast.

There are four guy holes, I have used 3 and 4 guy ropes equally well. Whilst 1.5"/38.1mm is the maximum diameter for this lightweight ring I can and have made specials for smaller poles. It is very suited to guying fiberglass push up poles as seen below, and this one is used regularly by MOBUL. The plastic bearing rings ensure metal never touches the fiberglass to cause damage.



(Picture shows prototype ring.)

Small G1YBB coax loop free guy ring on fiberglass pole

G1YBB Coax Loop Free Guy Rings

G1YBB guy ring – large:

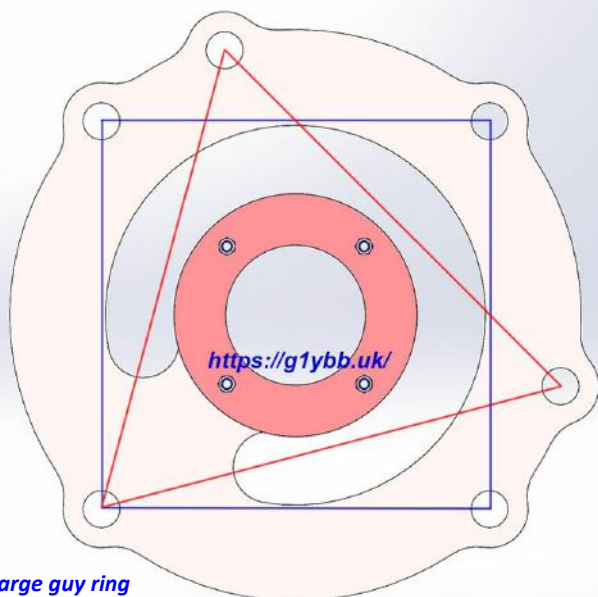
The larger ring will fit both scaffold poles and 50mm/2 inch poles. I cut different bore bearings for each as a 2 inch bearing would be too sloppy for my liking on a scaffold pole.

The ring is 6mm thick stainless and has hole patterns for 4 and 3 guy rope systems, 6 holes at 13mm diameter.

The coax slot is 25mm wide which will pass an N type plug easily.

Weight is 1115 grams.

The image below shows typical 4 rope or 3 rope guying patterns, but for those especially frisky nights you can use all 6!



large guy ring
guying patterns

Below you can see a finished guy ring for scaffold/2 inch poles (this particular one build for scaffold poles). You can see the machined bearing sandwich overhangs the stainless centre inside and outside diameters. This prevents the guy ring from ever damaging steel/aluminium/fibreglass poles and also ensures the coax in the slot never touches the inner slot diameter. Outer coax slot has smoothed edges to protect that valuable feeder!



Large G1YBB coax loop free guy ring

There are several options for the guy ring to sit on:

You can use the saddle from two exhaust clamps and two bolts:

It can sit on a joiner used to make the mast up:

You can also use a scaffold handrail joiner:

On 1.5 inch, 2 inch and 50mm poles you can use the best option of all in my opinion, a shaft collar as below



Lastly (from me, I'm sure other options are there) you can buy aluminium Stauff clamps to fit all poles sizes including scaffold poles, amazingly.

Below are my backpackers and UKAC poles used for some years now, the scaffold pole using the Stauff, the 1.5 inch pole using double split shaft collar clamps:



Contact me at my email (see the welcome page) if you are interested in these guys rings, I made them for myself to use but I do have spares •



Steve Clements - G1YBB
steve@g1ybb.uk

Twists and Turns

One of the important items of any shack if you have a beam is a rotator and more so an operating rotator at that. My rotator a Yaesu G450C has given great service considering the antenna I have stacked on top of it. It is installed in my home brew rotator cage and a Yaesu head support bearing on the top of the head unit.



For me to tilt over my mast I have to set the antenna at 120deg on the Dial this allows me to clear the shed and greenhouse as the mini beam elements just clear the aforementioned items.

On this occasion of putting the antenna into the lowering angle I noticed the movement somewhat staggered and stuttered this raised an eyebrow as I had only stripped the rotator a few months ago and fitted new ball bearings (stainless) and new grease.

Once lowered the first item I checked was the support bearing thinking maybe an issue with that may be restricting the movement, I released the bolts that lock it to the tube and all seemed fine smooth operating I had also stripped this when rotator was serviced too so all good.



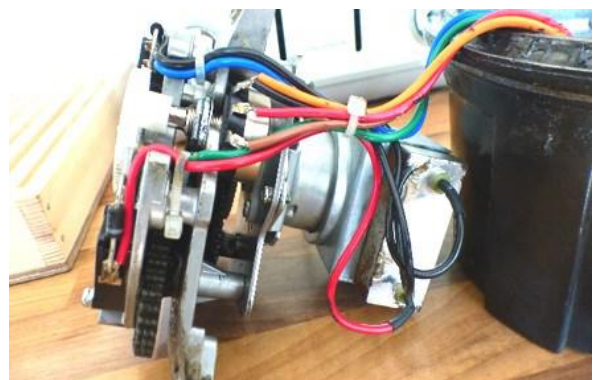
It was obvious that once the rotator and a test was done on the bench without a load applied and the result was still the same hardly any movement and very jerky. So in we go and as can be seen bearings were ok and well greased and a good visual didn't show any piece of metal that may come off and causing a jamming of movement.



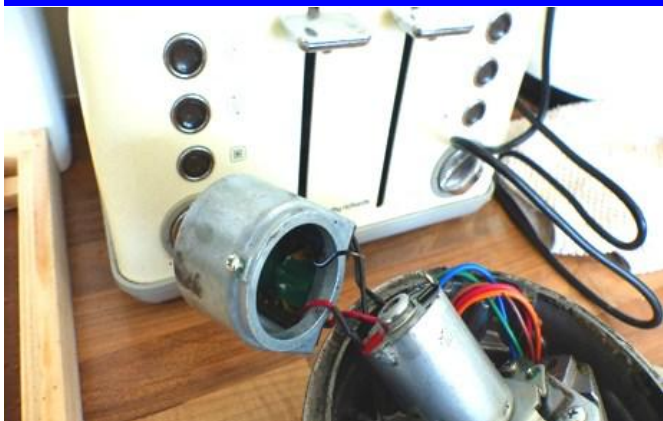
The triangular metal piece in the image is a chassis that everything is mounted to so this then was lifted out to get a better look inside at components lower in the unit but again nothing was visible and at this point I am suspecting the motor.

We did a check on supply voltage from the control box in case that had issues but that was perfect sending 24v to the motor that eliminated the controller.

So next to remove the chassis and go lower into the unit and see what we could find but again nothing obvious so my eyes were drawn to the motor and firstly the case bolted to the base of the motor which contained a small circuit board with components.



Twists and Turns



All in here tested ok merely a small circuit for slow start to protect the motor, so I stripped the gears that the motor drives to turn the antenna thinking maybe damaged teeth etc but again these all were good and all aligned correctly.



At this point the only thing left was the motor so this was removed and on looking externally nothing seemed out of place and no burning smell as you would associate with a cooked motor.

One thing to remember when doing this type of work is photograph everything and also apply reference makes to help align as you reassemble.

The motor fitted to this rotator is used on a number of Yaesu units and is claimed to be good



for 3000hrs use which mine has never seen but it is deemed to be reliable but with that in mind and thinking the worse I contacted Yaesu UK for a replacement but they had none in stock and it would be a month before one would be sourced. I was hoping I could repair what ever was causing my problem, I had nothing to lose opening the motor which has a pressed end case at the brush end and I would need to grind away the tiny lugs securing the rear cover.

Once these were cut away I could remove the armature and brushes and I was expecting to see some burnt or damage within but to my surprise I was stunned with what I found.. OIL yes OIL, the motor was saturated in oil the armature and brushes the internal casing etc.

Here is a picture of one of the brushes and you can clearly see the amount of oil on the brush hence not being able to do its job correct

So where had the oil come from I had never used oil on the rotator only grease.??? The only thing I could come up with is we are currently going thru Irelands hottest heatwave with temps recorded on my weather system of 32° C and possibly hotter at the rotator. Was the grease turning fluid with the heat.? I don't know but it was the only suggestion I could think of, I had a canister of contact cleaner and so I sprayed the brushes and case internals with this and allowed it to evaporate where by I then cleaned with paper towel.



I stripped the 500ohm variable resistor to clean the copper rail that is used to send a signal to the control box to indicate the direction of antenna. I then rebuilt the motor back up the rear end snapped back into place and was secure the assembly was the reversal of the strip down except this time I had my fingers crossed.



A dry run was performed on the bench whereby the unit ran smooth both directions so with that in hand the casing and bearings were fitted and the unit fitted back in the cage. Then it was test time and what do you know it works a treat, I have seen many things in my 50 years in this hobby but this is a first so who knows maybe someone may benefit from this article or even be planning a strip down of a rotator.

So if you are intending a strip down again I will say it mark everything (typex is very useful) photograph the same and after that its only nuts and bolts. • **E13HQB**

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Building the (Radio Control Unit) RCU Part IV

In the last episode you saw the internal units being built, a lot of work on these was done by Sue EI1826 and myself John EI3HQB.

At weekends we would be joined by members who could offer some time with the build the next main job on the list was the electrics and this task was in the hands of Wayne EI7HKB, Wayne during the day time hours is an electrical on custom builds such as race horse transporter trucks so he knows all about custom wiring vehicle and most of all making it safe.

One of the main things I stipulated was I did not want to see wires or coax anywhere, nothing to me uglier than a multitude of cables and a risk of damage to them also.

On the front of the RCU is a wind breaker, this as it is named is to divert the air around the unit and help with streamlining and fuel consumption while towing

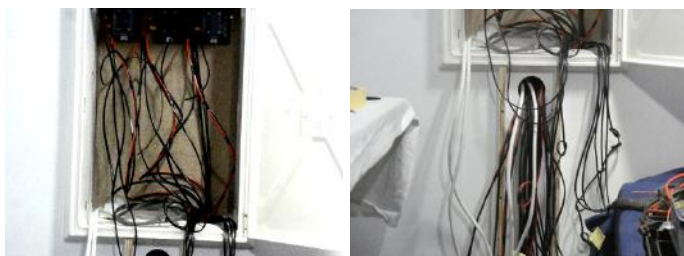


The windbreaker is a hollow fibreglass panel so with that in mind we decided to install an external electricity meter box inside the RCU to house all the electrical pieces we wanted to fit and this meant no external electrics outside in the weather.

The area was cut away and as expected nothing in there only a void that suited our needs so the cabinet was installed and looked a treat.

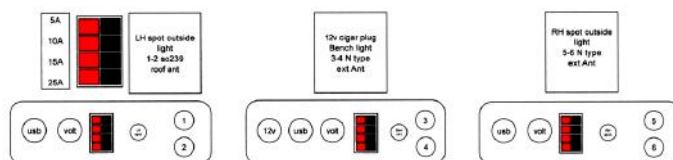


Wayne set about the very complex wiring needed in the unit, apart from what was needed to power radio's we had external lighting like tail lamps fog lamps and overhead lighting for evening activations.



When you start you never realise how many cables you need and in no time, we had wires everywhere it was like a cable waterfall.

The layout on the bench would be we had three bays, each was to be able to take two radio's if needed and this meant six overall could operate with required filters, in each panel we would have USB/Power pole various amps/voltage readout/switches for undercounter lighting and external lighting.



Items 3-6 were N type connectors for antenna, the opposite end with corresponding number was to be in the battery box so an antenna on No3 would be fed from outside on corresponding connector.



Wayne and sue working on the wiring of our new radio bench and as you can see a number of the panels at this point, the panels were just aluminium and buzzed with an orbital sander and then lacquer sealant. We also fitted 2 x mains 220v sockets for when we have access to mains electricity.



Wayne was in full flow with the wiring and we had a rolls Royce moto...Attention to detail... and this was the case thru the full project, each of the panels would have its own circuit feeds and in case we had an outage on a panel the other two would still work also fused separately with an LED that would light up to indicate which fuse had blown so no pulling everything to find the dead fuse.

A solar system was also to be installed this would make the RCU fully self-sufficient and well able to run a full weekend with no pressure on the two-leisure battery's up front that had been donated to us.

Building the (Radio Control Unit) RCU Part IV

Wayne had finished the electrical cabinet and it was top a job .do it once do it right.

We then installed our solar system again donated to us and would turn out to be invaluable, we made up a frame with a slight pitch on it this allowed water to run of them and help keep them clean.

The support frames were made from donated 50 mm x 50 mm aluminium angle and riveted. The lower rails were left extended and this allowed us to fit them to the roof frame of the RCU.



Power cables would enter the RCU via a covered cable grommet again to prevent the ingress of water.

Once ready my son Joe came and gave me a lift to install, we bolted them to the rails and sealed them with rubber adessive they looked great on the roof and low so as not to get caught on anything like trees etc.



Wayne then completed the wiring and the system was fired up and within a couple of days it was showing 100%, So here you can see the standards we were working to and it was great to have all this packed neatly into the electrical box inside out of the weather.



Mean while myself EI3HQB and Sue EI1826 turned



our attention to the rest of the internal furniture and the main item here was a bed. We wanted the unit to have the ability of being used to sleep an occupant so the full length bench we would build for the unit was to have an extendable seat which would allow an operator to sleep over.

We had built a number of campervans over the years and this helped with the type of seating that would extend to create a bed.

As can be seen every other slat on the seat is fixed while the opposite is allowed to extend out. Underneath would become storage and drawers at the end would house cups tea coffee and cleaning towels etc. again once built it then had to be painted.

Cupboards would need making and again painted, Sue had done 90% of all the painting and again it had to be top notch or it would be redone



And so we were now ready to do a full install of all items made and then trim the RCU out but you will have to wait until next episode •

John Tubritt- EI13HQB
ei3hqb@gmail.com

DARC B37 Presents An Unusual Field Day

On Friday 12th June, 2026, the Hassberg German Ham Radio Club (DARC) B37 started to set-up its field day in weather conditions that nobody expected. In heavy rain, the exhibitions trailers, vehicles and tents were placed in position on the Wallburg, a round fortress built on a hill with 306m above sea level, near to the town called Eltmann in Bavaria, Germany. Dennis, DN9KGB, the chairman of this group and the many helping members had organised this field day to make it a very unusual event with plenty to see and touch. The B37 Club presented a well organised event with members providing the shown equipment and a great refreshment offer.



Despite this heavy rain, the weekend was blessed with pure sunshine. All exhibiting vehicles were placed directly in front of the round tower on a park place and the tents did not only provide shadow to the sun but also a sitting possibility to enjoy chatting while eating or drinking. This club has a great connection to the local pizzeria who delivered uncooked pizzas that were placed in ovens and redelivered as freshly baked. A highlight for the many hungry guests that took part. Drinks were cooled in a large fridge and for those who wanted something else to eat, they even had a grill for the wurst in bread roll.

Dennis owns a FM2 type German army container on a flatbed trailer. In this container he has an impressive



5kW/h battery supply going into an inverter. This container has everything that presents the modern communication world of a ham operator. It has internet possibility for WLAN connectivity. Through HAMNET there are 2 telephones available for VOIP use. A huge 50 inch screen is used for the various internet portals available, showing world radio contacts on various bands and for the actual log of this station. It has 2 Yaesu transceivers to cover all bands, a FT-DX 10 and a FT-X 1. Various Antennas are stored in this container, including the exhibiting 5 band Hex Beam covering the 6 to 20m band. Dennis uses an aluminium mast that rotates on a Yaesu rotator for directional antennas. Even a long-wire antenna was put up from the top of the fortress tower to the FM2 container, providing even more possibilities on the shortwave band. The container is so big, it allows 2 or 3 person room to operate without any inconvenience.



DARC B37 Presents An Unusual Field Day

In the B37 club they have members who also work in the Bavaria Red Cross (BRK) and they helped to build a small military container into a communication centre for the Red Cross. This was present for this field day and represents the great work between Ham radio community and the emergency services. Stefan, DG3NEF and Thomas, DK5TRB were not only in this club but also active as volunteer workers for the BRK and helped to build this container plus a lorry with a fully installed command centre for the Red Cross with 4 person dispatch capacity. Unfortunately the lorry was not there for this event. To see how far and successful their work has become is an example for the many other radio clubs who struggle to develop a possibility to form an alternative to the emergency structure that has failed on many occasions.

antenna on a mag-mount on his engine bonnet. His car has an aluminium roof that provided no hold for an antenna so he had to use his car's bonnet to become the much needed



ground plane effect.

What also was a joy to see, was Uwe, Prepper 14, was invited by the club to present his FM 1 army container with his CB radio set-up. This connecting and presenting helps to increase the spirit of radio communications hobby. Many Ham radio operators came from the CB band and have developed to become great communications engineers. What Dennis, the chairman of B37, has done should be an example for others who plan events.

This event ended on Sunday with everything being removed before 13.00pm. I was informed that around 90 people had registered in the guest book.

Upon calling Dennis for details to this article, I caught up with him at the Ham radio exhibition in Bodensee and received exciting news. Dennis radio experience started in the CB band. He even became the chairman of B37 before he did his novice license. Going to the Ham radio exhibition, he did his exam and has qualified for an A license. He is now awaiting for a new call-sign and shows how a CB operator, chairman of a club with a novice license and now a full licensed class A operator has gone the way that could be anybody who loves this hobby. Congratulations Dennis. You are an example for many others •

**Marten, Bavaria, Germany.
13EC39,13LR029**



Thomas also presented his satellite communications equipment, not only being active on Q100 but also direct satellite communications. He displayed his many converted LNBs and TV satellite dishes that he uses. It was great to see so many visitors at his stand collecting information and seeing his Q100 system working live.

There were other small stands with other functions, like a small corner for selling articles. Here it was possible to buy antenna analysers, antenna tuners, transceivers or antennas. A college presented his FT 8 set-up using a large, outback original



Adam's Journey

Adam Sweeney, from Dunmore East County Waterford, was on a journey to be the youngest Irishman to summit the great mountain at the tender age of 22 years.

Adam's journey to summit Everest started a number of years ago and articles of his journey are in back issues, this is the final leg of his journey to one of the harshest places on earth and a section of that known as the Death zone.

He set off on the trip to Everest on the 30th march he bid farewell to his family at Dublin airport and next stop would be Abu Dhabi and from there to Katmandu and then, when possible, get a flight to Lukla airport.



For those who don't know Lukla airport is like having a downhill aircraft carrier strip in the Himalayas, known as one of the most dangerous airports in the world as the weather closes in fast without warning and you are in the hands of the gods.

From here it is a ten-day hike to base camp with various stops, the hike was variable in height and at times the knees were feeling the pressure and a lot more work on them before the major climb, we made a lot of good friends on the route and had stunning scenery with every turn.



Finally, we reached base camp and this is where the work begins, we had a four man team. (Team Ireland) Pádraig O'Hora, Éanna McGowan, Adam Sweeney, Jason Black.

Now at base camp, we can get some insight into the task ahead with rotations this being where we ascend to base camp 2 and descend back to base camp this is to enable the body to acclimatise to the thinner air at these heights.



I'm absolutely delighted to be climbing with Pemba, my Sherpa. 8 summits of Mount Everest, 2 of K2, along with Makalu, Manaslu and more which is honestly unbelievable when you think about it.

The amount of experience there is on those mountains is hard to wrap your head around.

Incredibly lucky to have him with me and looking forward to learning a lot over the next few weeks.

Rotations are designed to gradually expose climbers to higher altitudes, allowing their bodies to adapt to lower oxygen levels. This process reduces the risk of altitude sickness and improves performance during the final summit push.

Climbers ascend to higher camps, spend a short period there, and then descend to lower camps to rest and recover, repeating this cycle multiple times.

Nearly 3 weeks into the Everest journey and it's been some experience already. Training is flying, the body is holding up well, and morale in the team is high. We're all hoping the Icefall opens up soon so we can start pushing higher, but for now it's time to head off on an acclimatisation peak and keep building strength the right way.

One thing that really stands out here is the people. The Sherpas especially different level. The work they put in and the way they go about it doesn't go unnoticed.

Grateful to be here, doing what I love. Big weeks ahead and massive thanks for all the support from back home it means the world.



Khumbu icefall Delay

There are 365 days in a year, but only a handful of them see calm and clear enough conditions on the summit of Mount Everest for humans to survive. For the rest of the year, the peak is buffeted by violent winds, frozen by sub-zero temperatures, and pounded by snowstorms. The only

Adam's Journey

time when the summit experiences consistent stretches of calm, sunny conditions occur in May. That's when climbers try to reach the top.

The Khumbu Icefall is the first section that climbers must navigate when they depart Mount Everest Base Camp for the summit. And it is the most deadly and dangerous section of the entire ascent. A massive hanging serac just below Camp 1 delayed route-fixing and forced Icefall Doctors and expedition-company Sherpas to wait for it to shift or partially melt before they could safely establish ladders and ropes.

Ice fall Doctors

Icefall Doctors are specialized Sherpas employed by the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) to manage the treacherous Khumbu Icefall between Everest Base Camp these guys work a route thru the Khumbu ice fall and rope it ready for the climbers to follow and make it safe hence the name Ice Doctors.



One big issue at altitude also is the weather and this was to play a part in the journey Jason the team leader had info on impending jet stream weather as follows.

Mt Everest Update 13th May 2026

The summit is open.

But our Irish team meteorologist that's giving me the critical info has warned me that the jet streams will return tonight. With a partial jet stream tonight, 13th May and full jet stream from 14th through to the 18th May bringing hurricane conditions at 8000m. That's not to say that you may see some crazy horse try for a summit.... but I'm not

prepared to take team Ireland into the death zone knowing the monster that I know all too well, lays ahead.

I feel sorry for the team personally, it's been a brutal mental battle to stay locked in for over 43 days now - but a life is a life and this is high altitude mountaineering. Great advice from Jason and so we sit it out a bit longer and continue to train at lower altitude and hope the gods give us a sign.

Then on the 18 May we get the we have been waiting for the all clear to make a summit push after 47 days into the expedition we can now get to do what we came here for.

The moment years of training have been building toward is finally here. Adam Sweeney, alongside team members Eanna McGowan and Padraig O'Hora, will make their final push for the top of the world.



If successful, they will make history as the first all-Irish team to summit Mount Everest in over 20 years and at just 22 years old, Adam is on the cusp of becoming the youngest Irish person in history to summit Mount Everest!

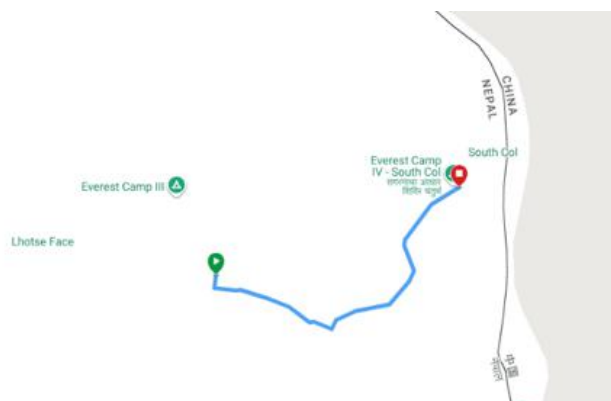
The Journey So Far

1:00 AM today (Monday 18 May): The team departed Camp 3 at 7,100m.

8:00 AM (Monday 18 May: After a gruelling climb, the team has safely arrived at Camp 4 (7,900m).

Tonight: The ultimate push to the 8,848m summit in the early hours of tomorrow (Tuesday) morning.

We were using Garmin tracking so our progress was being tracked across the globe



The conditions are cold and unforgiving, with temperatures approaching -30°C and strong winds sweeping across the mountain. Every step from here demands total focus, discipline, and determination.

From the darkness of the Death Zone, Team Ireland now begins the final climb toward a dream that has lived in their hearts for many years.

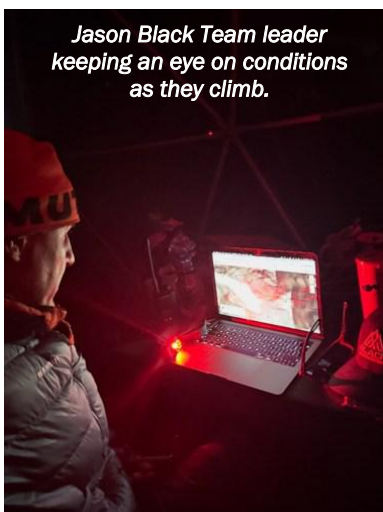
Adam's Journey

Team Ireland left Camp 4 on the South Col at 8,000 metres and are now making their way into the night toward the summit of Mount Everest. Above them lies the Balcony, the South Summit, the Hillary Step, and finally the highest point on Earth. This is the hardest part of the climb and this is where your training comes into play managing oxygen stamina and all the fears you have on board also.



Overnight conditions were extremely challenging. The fixed ropes were heavily buried under deep snow, and breaking trail at that altitude was exhausting. Progress became painfully slow, and despite being only 400 meters in altitude below the summit, the team began to get dangerously cold and the decision was made to turn back.

We were devastated but had to concentrate on getting back to camp 4 and seeing if we would be able to have another go at the summit in a few days and don't forget Everest has a climbing window that was fast running out for us. We arrived at camp 4 and got food and sleep while our team leader sourced oxygen and supplies for us to have another go at the summit.



We then got news we go again in 24hrs we had a window with a breath in weather and Ice doctors had reinstated the ropes.

Conditions at Camp 4 are challenging, with winds currently reaching around 35 mph. As a result, many teams have chosen to delay their departure slightly. For us, this is actually a positive move. It creates more space on the mountain and reduces the risk of queues higher up in the Death Zone.

Our meteorologist is forecasting that the jet stream winds will ease significantly between 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. This weather window should provide the team with the best opportunity to move safely and efficiently through the highest and most demanding section of the climb.

The plan we set out for the lads to leave Camp 4 and reach the Balcony just around now 10pm, before turning right onto the summit ridge. From there, wind speeds are expected to ease, allowing for steadier and safer progress through the early hours of the morning.

The longer they can stay sheltered from the strongest winds, the better their chances of conserving energy, maintaining body temperature, and moving strongly toward the summit.

And then on 19th of May at 3am, after a second summit push, I stood on top of Mount Everest and became the youngest Irish person to do so.

We were there the journey was complete tanks to all who believed I could do it and all those who supported me and the team @jason black Mountaineering. Also, a big



shout to EI3CC who have followed me all the way and supported me and my go fund me with special call EI 0 EVRST and of course Ham Radio Ireland magazine who to raise awareness of my journey.

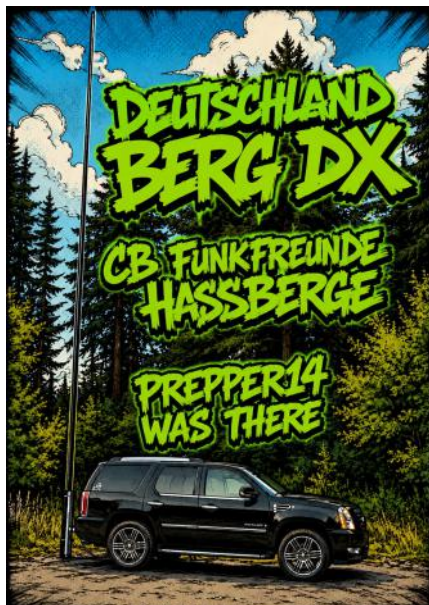


We descended tired and what we had done did not sink in straight away but after some much needed sleep we were elated and looking forward to seeing Ireland once more and our family's •

Until the next journey
Adam Sweeney Mountaineer

2nd Germany Mountain DX Event

On 27 June 2026, the time had finally come for the 2nd Germany Mountain DX event. The conditions could hardly have been better. With daytime temperatures reaching 40°C, it was a true midsummer's day.



Preparations were in full swing. This time, however, I was unable to take part using my military mobile shelter, so I decided to operate with a 14-metre Spider-beam mast fitted with a Hawkins Thunderbolt 5/8 antenna. I quickly obtained the Spider-beam from our friend and partner, Markus Neuner, at his radio communications shop.

Time flew by, and at around 8:30 p.m. I set off for Waldstein, a mountain in the Fichtel Mountains, approximately 800 metres above sea level. After arriving, I chose the ideal operating position in the spacious car park beside the Waldsteinhaus Inn.

The Spider-beam mast and the Hawkins Thunderbolt antenna were fully erected in less than five minutes. Thanks to my custom-built mounting system, assembly and installation were effortless. The first test transmissions and QSOs followed shortly afterwards. An SWR of just 1:1.2 confirmed that everything was working perfectly.

As 10:00 p.m. approached, I switched to Channel 2 USB, where Joachim, operating under the callsign "Schwarzwälder", opened the event with an introduction accompanied by the song Bakersfield. After explaining the format of the Germany Mountain DX event, Joachim introduced each of the participating control stations.

A total of 20 mountain locations across Germany were activated. Each control station introduced itself, announced its operating location, and stated the channel on which it would later be available. I was listed as Control Station No. 16. Representing CB Funkfreunde Hassberge, I naturally chose Channel 34 USB, our club's home channel.

After around thirty minutes, all control stations had been introduced and were released by Schwarzwälder to their assigned frequencies.

The moment I arrived on 34 USB, stations immediately began calling for Prepper14. Many of my radio friends wanted to be among the first to make contact. Operators including Snoopy05, Kucha Hans, Naddl, Maika, Einhorn, 13 Lima India, Neptun 5, and many others honoured me with a call. Within minutes my logbook was rapidly filling, and there was barely a moment's silence.

As is often the case, however, the initial rush was

followed by a quiet spell. By then I had logged around 55 stations, and suddenly the band fell completely silent.

Fortunately, my friend and partner from CB Funkfreunde Hassberge, Kucha Hans, called in on 34 USB (27.345 MHz). Hans was operating together with his friend Filz from another summit in the Fichtel Mountains at an impressive 1,000 metres above sea level—around 200 metres higher than my own location.

Hans "Kucha" Müller is internationally respected for both his radio communications business and his outstanding technical modifications. Within a short time, he brought the frequency back to life. Thanks to Hans, many additional operators joined our conversation, allowing us to finish the evening with an impressive total of 81 logged stations.

The longest-distance contact of the evening was with Aladin (Manuel), operating from near Vienna, Austria. We successfully completed a QSO over an outstanding 389 kilometres as the crow flies.

Time passed incredibly quickly, and when I looked at my watch it was already 12:03 a.m.. It was time to officially conclude my participation on Channel 34 USB and return promptly to Channel 2 USB.

Joachim then introduced a new feature that was being tested for the first time. Each control station was invited to give a brief summary of its evening, report the number of stations worked, and then attempt direct contacts with the other control stations operating across Germany.

At around 12:30 a.m., it was my turn. I thanked everyone who had called me, reported my total of 81 stations worked, and expressed my sincere thanks to Kucha Hans for his valuable support throughout the evening.

Shortly before 1:00 a.m., after the final control stations had delivered their reports, Joachim officially closed the 2nd Germany Mountain DX event. Many operators returned to their individual working channels, while I dismantled my station and began the journey home.

Once again, the event proved to be an unforgettable experience. Excellent organisation, outstanding operating conditions, and many enjoyable QSOs combined to make it a truly memorable evening.

I am already looking forward to taking part in the 3rd Germany Mountain DX •



EI3CC Club House Opening



Our new Club House

We finally got our new Club House passed and approved by the various departments i.e. Fire Insurance and health and safety.

A date was posted to our members and public that the 20th June we planned an official opening of the club house and we intended to also have a BBQ and room for camping and campervans also.

On Friday the 19th myself and Sue EI1826 and Wayne EI7HKB were on site to get the clubhouse ready for the following day, those that don't know our location we are situated just outside Tramore in the county of Waterford on Ballyscanlon lake. The views here are spectacular looking down on the lake and the Comeragh mountains in the background.



First port of call was the supermarket for supply's, we had already been to the cash and carry on previous day for BBQ items.



Our new fridge arrived just in time too, Wayne in the meantime got on with the technical side of the clubhouse we would have a full screen for our projector with a plan for a movie

Saturday evening and various tables laid out with various



club items and projects for visitors to view.



Sue went on to start dressing our deck area with our flags and buntings to get us in a party mood our frontage on the club house has a full timber deck area and a glass roof so we can have all activations underway even in bad weather. well done Sue she had it looking a treat, known for flying the flag for our hobby it was only fitting to display flags where we could. And the donated picnic tables placed near the BBQ ready for Saturday.



Myself and Wayne had installed a temporary mast to support one of his homebrew 49-1 and also a VHF 6-2-70, I had made up clamps to fit the mast on the gate

posts and then our trusty bow and arrow to fire a line over some nearby trees at least then we had a station up and running for the weekend too.



EI3CC Club House Opening

Work was now completed inside and the shack was up and running and a few contacts logged just to test the station.



Everyone at this point was tired it had been a long day and it was time for chef John EI3HQB to get some grub made to feed the troops on the menu this evening was Turkish kebabs which went down a treat even from members that never had them before.

Into the evening we went all nervous about the official opening and hoping it would all run to plan some of the guests were going to be traveling a great distance so we did not want to disappoint.

Saturday morning arrived some of the members had stayed overnight but many more were turning up and in no time the carpark was filling with campervans cars our caravan and RCU, we are lucky here to have another parking area and worse case park by the lake with a stunning view.



The official opening was to take place at 2pm so breakfast it was for our early guests Dale EI7HDB taking controls of the kitchen and providing a great feast after which we could just chill out and greet new guests as they arrived and even work a bit of radio if needed.

A lot of guests had never seen the clubhouse so I was worn out with tours of the building and explaining its construction and its energy ratings being fully timber structure.

We have also access to the lake with various crafts to kayaks canoes etc and we have 5 acre forestry sit around the clubhouse.

Soon it was 2pm and we had asked Sue EI1826 to officially open the new building, Sue has put her heart and



EI3CC Club House Opening



soul into EI3CC from day one and even with us doing some of the build on the club house she has always been on site so it was only fitting for her to do the honours.



We had been donated a cast plaque of our logo and this now proudly hangs at the main entrance of the EI3CC Club House



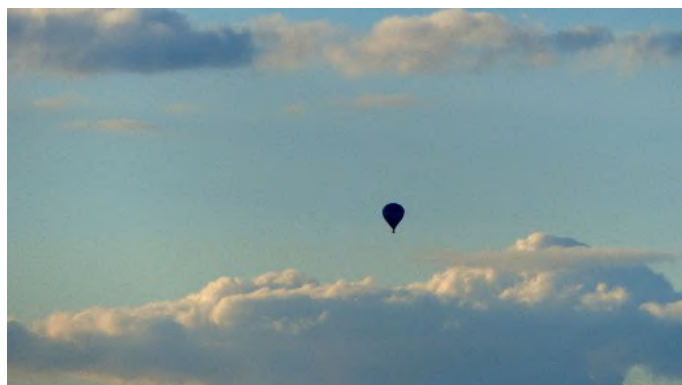
John Holland, from Scouting Ireland, presented a framed Scouting Ireland Scarf and patches for JOTA and Radio scouting Activities from, for our contribution towards JOTA activities.



And then onto our BBQ which was a great success everyone enjoyed the opening we had great conversation from our travellers who want to call again when we have activations from the clubhouse.

Some walked down to the lake some even braver went for a swim and with having three showers on site it was easy to have a wash afterwards.

The sunset came in and we were even graced by the Waterford Hot Air Balloon club passing the site in the sunset.



EI3CC now has a home after only three and a half years and a great place to come and learn about our hobby with planned winter classes and electronics kits to build. Our station is on site and always available for demonstrations for the Scouts •

John Tubritt- EI3HQB
ei3hqb@gmail.com

Propagation

Greetings, from the Shed

Going to come away from the building side of things and talk about propagation and the weird and wonderful things it can do and when does it rarely happens as regular opens do such as F2 opening allowing paths between your station and a far flung around the planet's surface to another.

My first experiences of propagation was back in early 70's and wondering why I could only hear Radio Luxemburg after Dark fell and why my local Pirates in North Sea disappeared when darkness fell. This started my wondering why this was happening and started to investigate why. Then there was no internet to explain things and had to work it out and through couple more experienced chaps taught me about the D layers. How they worked in relation to daylight hrs and hours of darkness started my road on the radio front.

Towards the latter part of the 70's CB came along and I learned even more about solar cycles and am days down the beach after hrs only during certain times one year could do it and others NOT due to the 11-year solar cycle on AM modes on 27mhz. But then summer times would come along and suddenly the local CB FM signals would just disappear on 27mhz and a whooshing noise would appear and signals start going into 9+ and into red and next thing you know you're talking into Scotland and Cornwall from Essex. Then into Germany Portugal and eastern European countries even Israel was being heard was an Eye opener as now learning about wonders of Summer Es or sporadic E conditions. Plus, how much beams from Vertical antennas to Horizontal antennas could pick up Es quicker than Vertical antennas. Had one case I was in Suffolk running a 4 El beam and the local Vertical guys thought talking to me self when in fact was talking to 4 Northern Irish stations for an hour. And a couple of local friends with Hoz beams joined in the QSOs. But the Es would drop and shake of a hat and it's GONE. Hence the names, sporadic, for these conditions were very much so and could appear across any part of Europe. Give distances of around to 500km to 1500km.

Another time of Es was on the old 70's TV channels when the Es sprung up from Essex I had an improved signals from TVS from Kent, ATV in midlands and usually German French and Dutch TV test cards that were on VHF/UHF freq.'s depending on time of day the Es was happening. But could not believe it one day I saw the Nippon test card come up for a few minutes. This is Japanese TV coming on a Multi hop Es path. Shame did not photo the TV screen but saw couple months later, a few people in UK were picking up the Nippon TV test card as well.

Now come early 80's I started out on me ISWL with basic wire in garden and a Panasonic RF3900 and a home brewed kit Howes ATU. Over the years I learnt a lot more about propagation on a global scale the effects of the ups and downs of the 11-year solar cycle. Plus, the Seasonal effects of propagation. I was a regular listener to KSDA on one of the pacific islands on other side of the globe and found there Asia services was well heard April to Oct BUT their Pacific service was audio able regular from Oct across to April. And what happens when the sun throws its dummy out of the pram big time LOL. This increased my knowledge of the propagation that affects the global or local radio waves.

But the best one was at mother's house using a nice Grundig radio with cassette player built in SW bands and a telescopic antenna. Was midwinter and thought I was listening to the AFRS from Germany and listening to a live baseball game. Come 10pm there was a break in the coverage, and a

station announcement came on. "This is WINB from High Island NY" and then carried on with the baseball game. Me mother looked at me wondering why my strange face and then hers when told her were listening to an American station from NY USA this was around the lower part of the AM band of MW band. 3000+ miles between us. But then found out about using long wires that ran 1km to 2km in any directions and a chap in northern Finland had only 2hrs of day light mid-winter was picking up stations around planet on the old MW band provide a path of darkness and no D layer present. Another D layer story was in HCJB Ecuador the engineers set up couple those long beverage antennas and during a predicted solar eclipse they were hearing MW stations coming in from the path of the solar shadow on earth up to 1000 miles away not normally heard around mid-day thanks to path of darkness cause during the solar eclipse switching off the D layer allowing MW signals to rise upwards and back down again over greater distances.

But, in many years being a radio ham have experienced many forms of propagation such as seasonal working Caribbean and east Coast USA station on 40m SSB usually latter half of autumn and if you're really lucky work an NZ station usually on what we call greyline. Again, is a very seasonable thing.

Again, seasonable is Multi hop Es come Oct/Nov into east coast Canada and down towards Middle east. But rarer still is a solar cycle peak thing reaching East coast USA, Canada and a station from the UAE in the middle east again SSB on 6m band BUT via very high bursts of MUF causing the F2 to open to 6m bands. And a time again via F2 on 6m SSB a friend mine was talking to Japanese stations. This is opening is rare and usually happens at peak of solar cycle this time was 2024 autumn. So looking at F2 openings once or twice in a 11-year period.

I love it when the Aurora kicks in, time to pint beam north and listen to the Daleks speech being heard. Had a good one, one evening many years ago was on a 4 el HB beam in Suffolk. On the 27mhz SSB working stations in Norway Sweden Finland and Sussex and Kent and Midlands for about an hour.

Now we all hear about inter G on 40m varying from most of UK being heard and down to has to be greater than 400km or 500km and the black holes has formed anything within that zone not being heard called the skip zone depending on the CF levels around us being above or lesser than 7mhz. Recently it's been hitting into 14-15mhz allowing inter G on 20m SSB from around 300 to 600km again coinciding with the solar peak.

But even the low band of 40m can produce rare opening as couple years ago one early morning, I believed to be on a double grey line was talking to a guy from North NZ in SSB on 40m band and again other day Chatting to a VO station on east coast of Canada SSB on 6m band mentions he been listening to BBC radio 2 from the UK on lower part of the VHF FM broadcast band.

And I still reckon to this day that Es has effects of the lower HF as far south on 40m band, times I have heard and worked stations should not be hearing due to fact the CF is too low for inter G and yet listening to the transmissions via Es on 40m you get that seashore background noise of waves lapping the beach FROM STATIONS less than 300km away •

Kernow Shed of Build - Karl - 2E0FEH

EI3CC First SOTA Activation



We always had a plan to try a SOTA activation. It has grown in popularity over the years here in Ireland a number of friends have been avid SOTA activators so we said 2026 was to be the year to give it a go.

What is SOTA

Summits on the Air (SOTA) is an amateur radio program that encourages operators to set up and operate their stations from designated mountain summits, promoting outdoor activity and radio communication.

In our case we chose a lovely spot overlooking a town called Dungarvan, Cruchan walking trail EI/IS-061. We had a few members wishing to try a SOTA but unfortunately Frank had broken his leg the night before and another was suffering nose bleeds even before we got to altitude.

None the less myself EI3HQB and Wayne EI7HKB decided we would have a go and see what this SOTA is all about.



We arrived on site and we had low cloud and this had dampened our spirits some what but none the less we were here and the sun was to break out at midday.

There is a path to the summit and myself and Wayne

being somewhat rounder and out of shape this was going to be taken steadily as there was no rush to summit we took all we needed and some fluids and a sandwich. The whole idea with a SOTA is only take what you need everything to a minimum.



Our climb was steady and pausing at different levels as we headed up the views got better the more we climbed. Once we got to the top we were greeted by strong winds from the sea which we had not experienced on the climb as we were on the lea side of the hill, but we had a circle of



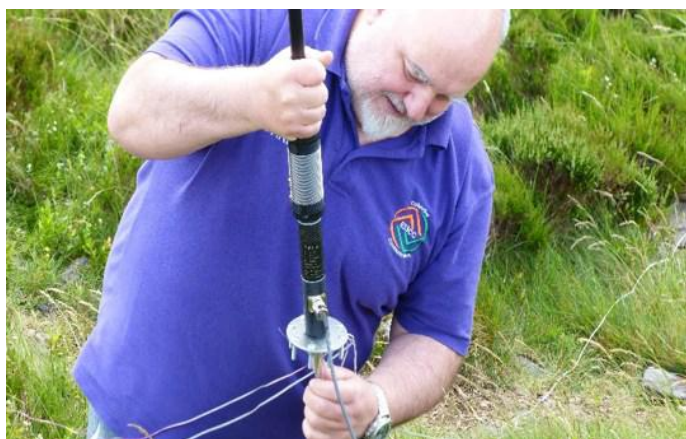
EI3CC First SOTA Activation

stoned possible used by sheep in the winter and this made for great cover out of the wind

So time to get the antenna set up and that meant our JPC12 designed for portable use and served us as a POTA antenna vThe JPC-12 is a versatile, compact, and portable vertical HF/VHF antenna covering 40m to 6m (7–50 MHz), capable of handling up to 100 watts, and designed for rapid setup in outdoor or field operations.

The JPC-12 is a versatile, compact, and portable vertical HF/VHF antenna covering 40m to 6m (7–50 MHz), capable of handling up to 100 watts, and designed for rapid setup in outdoor or field operations.

The JPC-12 is a multiband portable antenna ideal for amateur radio use in field, travel, camping, or emergency setups' It features a telescopic vertical whip and a manually or sliding-tapped multi-band coil, allowing users to quickly adjust the antenna to different frequencies within its operational range. Its compact collapsed length of 34.5cm and fully extended height of 4.1m making it



highly portable and suitable for a variety of outdoor environments.

You can also see we had made a disc from aluminium and to this a number of radials could be fitted to give a better ground.



Our radio of choice was the X6100 this again had proved to be outstanding for portable use and audio quality superb.

We also had a handheld for 2mtr and a solar powered meshtastic once



antenna was tunned we set about our first SOTAbut radio silence was it the coax we swapped it maybe radio not set up right Wayne was going to go through everything to see if we missed anything.



I sent the drone up to get some views of this stunning location, I had been here years ago in my hang gliding days and it still catches your breath with the views.

So back to Wayne but no joy all radio was ok coax ok antenna also ok, so a few calls made on the phone revealed a CME hit early in the morning and we were in a radio blackout just our luck.



The VHF was fairing no better as 2mtr simplex in Echo India is all but dead, the only item making a big splash was the meshtastic with stations all over EI and some into the UK.

So we gave it until early afternoon and no change in band conditions so we decided to throw in the towel on our first SOTA, would we do it again indeed we will a lot was learned from this trip to take away with us.

So why not try a bit of SOTA yourself it's a little different from POTA but just as enjoyable pick somewhere you know you can manage to summit last thing you want is a trip hole in a rescue helicopter •

Looking to the Future

We need to prioritise consideration of youth in our hobby, most of us licensed for many years encountered radio as a youngster. Clubs are a good starting place but it's the clubs place to let the youth know a club even exists so with that in mind a club should always make its self-known at as many public events as possible as they say you won't sell your produce if no one knows what you are selling.

Another great starting point is with scout groups clubs should be involved with scouting groups throughout the year and not just on a JOTA weekend.

There are many kits available these days from Ali express to name one that young people can build them self and with that help it is not long and they will be asking for more.

In the scouting groups it is always good to get the scout leaders involved so at least this will reduce the workload and the scouts feel at ease building and working with known faces.

At our scout group Copper Coast, we had a training day, the training would be a two-part session over the full day.

Radio scouting Ireland would carry out the course directed at leaders and senior scouts the end result would be that they had a format to take into the future to encourage scouts into the hobby of radio.

Our day was a Sunday, so we were at the club house early John EI3ISB from radio scouting Ireland had arrived overnight from Dublin and had a wonderful spot by our lake.



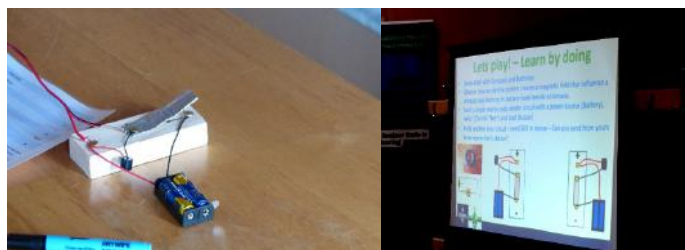
We assisted John where needed in setting up his equipment and displays while waiting on the leaders arriving on site at 10am.

We had brought our mobile radio unit with us as we would have several radios operational that leaders would use later in the day.



John started with an excellent visual display and explained each section as he went through them also answering questions when asked.

A few tasks would be set over the day and some with handheld radios and other with mind skills, some of the leaders had never been involved in any sort of radio so it was going to be a learning curve for them.



One of the task's was to build a CW key with a hand full of components and an image of the key but also why the key worked. Next, they had to connect the keys in such a way that when pressing the key on their own key it would activate the buzzer on the key at the end of the wire; long runs went out with some leaders out of sight.

They played out a scenario of being shipwrecked and had to send each other CW of items on the paper they had, and the opponent would have to work out what was needed i.e.
..-- --- --- .. WOOD and so on this proved to be very much enjoyed by all from a point of building the CW transmitter and then to be using it in a rescue scenario.



radios and developing communication skills. Information being sent was in some cases cryptic, so the operator had radio skills to hone and mental skills also.



We broke for lunch and enjoyed many questions about our hobby and the interest that it was creating amongst the scouting groups, we at EI3CC have a calendar

Looking to the Future



laid out over the winter months of offering electronics nights on scouting days we have now set up a fully functioning radio room that scouts who do take the course to get a licence will then have access to radio equipment. This in turn gives our youth exposure to radio and we hope in time that we will have a source of future operators.



John had a display of some of his equipment he uses on many of his SOTA and POTA this was great to see, and we could show an old receiver say in comparison to its modern equivalent and explain the way radio has changed with Technology.



We then moved up to actually making a contact on the various radios we had set up the leaders were split up into groups and before transmitting they were given an explanation on



each radio as to how and why they work VHF line of sight and HF via layers with that explained they were then able to make a contact by taking turns on the radio and paper logging too.

All our participants had had a contact on the radio's and were awarded a certificate from Radio Scouting Ireland and patch for communication, the whole program

was a great success and I would recommend it to all groups and clubs to get involved with scouts and youth clubs.

We hope in time Ireland will have a novice licence which will indeed bring fresh blood into our hobby and keep it alive for many years to come •



Beyond the Logbook

Galway, Inishbofin and a Weekend with Shannon Basin Radio Club



What started as a work trip to Galway became four days of POTA, buses, a ferry trip, an island contest and an unexpected extra night away. I made plenty of contacts, but the best part was getting to know the members of Shannon Basin Radio Club and learning from people with much more contest experience than me. It was a real honour to be invited along.

Thursday: POTA by bus



I was working in Galway on Thursday and, once the work was finished, I took advantage of the sunshine and headed out for some Parks on the Air operating. Normally I would explore a city by bike. With one arm in a cast, cycling was not sensible, so I relied on Galway's buses and my Leap Card. Carrying radio equipment with one working arm was

awkward, but the service proved very useful.

My first stop was a three-in-one location covering Barna Woods National Recreation Area, IE-0194; Cappagh

Park National Recreation Area, IE-0195; and the larger Galway Bay Complex, IE-0177.

Several Galway amateurs I knew came back to me on two metres. There is also a funny photograph of me standing on a park bench, trying to gain a little extra height for VHF. For a portable operator, a bench is antenna infrastructure.

From there, I travelled to Hunter's Park Bird Sanctuary, IE-0200, which also lies within the Galway Bay Complex. It added something unexpected to the activation: a warning sign about quicksand.



Beyond the Logbook

I then took two buses across Galway to Merlin Park Woods, IE-0201, hoping to complete a POTA Rover day. By the time I set up, it was around half past ten at night and the operating position was directly in front of a housing estate.

I managed six contacts, four short of a valid activation. Across the day, I made 26 contacts and completed four park activations before returning to Galway city and staying in a hostel.



Friday: Joining the trip



On Friday morning, Tom, EI4HCB, collected me in Galway. We drove through Connemara to Cleggan, where I met the rest of Shannon Basin Radio Club at the ferry.

The club had made the trip many times before. I was the newcomer, but there was no sense of being left outside. Before long, I had equipment in my one working hand and was helping to load the ferry.

The cast made me less useful for heavy lifting, but nobody made me feel that I was in the way. There was always something useful I could do.

We boarded the half-eleven ferry. I had never visited one of the offshore islands on the west coast before, so it felt like a proper adventure.

On arrival, a vehicle helped us move the equipment to the active primary school that would become our base.

Friday afternoon was spent building the station. The most visible part was the Spiderbeam, with different people assembling the elements, handling the mast and guy lines, and setting up the radios inside.

My broken arm ruled out the heavier jobs, but there were still smaller tasks, radios to test and photographs to take. By late afternoon, the school had become a two-station operating site.



Inishbofin and Inishshark form POTA reference IE-0178. Before dinner, we used the Shannon Basin Radio Club callsign EI2SBC to complete the first activation of the reference.

Then it was time for the Beach Bar. We had some well-needed refreshments and a good meal. As a vegan travelling in Ireland, I was very pleased to find both a proper vegan main course and a vegan dessert.

It also gave us time to talk properly and hear about people's lives outside radio.

Beyond the Logbook

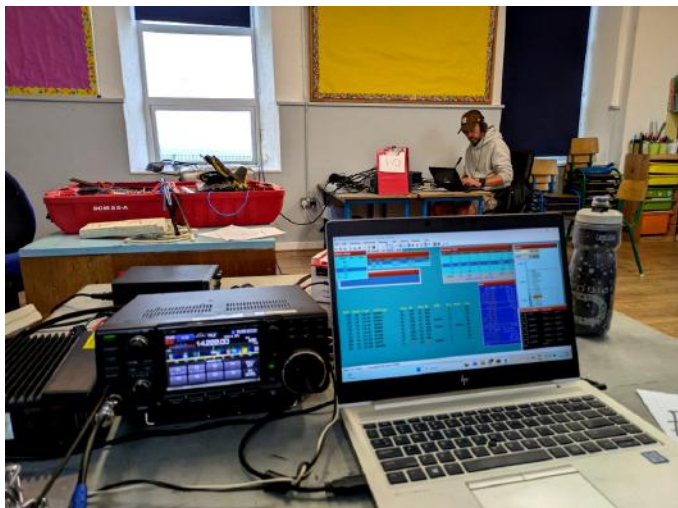
Afterwards, we made our way back across the island. Once we left the harbour area, there were almost no lights at all. Coming from Dublin, I found the darkness very strange.

Andy had advised me to bring a head torch. It may have been the most useful advice I received all weekend.



Saturday: POTA and learning from Mark

The contest was not due to begin until 1 p.m. on Saturday. I woke early; the antennas needed testing and I was on an island that counted as an entire POTA reference. Irish stations operating from an offshore island use the EJ prefix, so I went on the air as EJ7IRB. What began as a test became a very busy activation, and I made 341 contacts before the contest started.



Operating one-handed was another challenge. A radio station seems to need one hand for the microphone, another for the keyboard and somehow a third for everything else. With one arm in a cast, there was some creative positioning of microphones, keyboards and elbows, but we made it work.

This was my second time taking part in the Islands on the Air Contest. I had previously operated with South Dublin Radio Club, but it had been a few years.

Before the start, Mark, EI6JK, gave us a briefing. Mark has a lot of contest experience, and he explained what we were trying to do without making it feel intimidating.

The start was still a baptism by fire. One moment the station was quiet; the next, the bands were busy, and callsigns were arriving quickly.

You can read about multipliers, band changes, clusters and logging software, but it makes much more sense when you are sitting beside someone experienced and watching how they use the information.

Mark explained not only what to do, but why: when to change bands, what made a useful multiplier, when it was better to call CQ and when it was better to search for other stations.

That sort of knowledge is difficult to pick up from a manual. It comes from watching someone with experience, asking questions and then being trusted to try it yourself. For me, that was one of the best parts of the trip.



As Saturday continued, the sunshine gave way to wind and rain. Operators rotated through shifts while others helped with logging, equipment and food.

Later, Mark stayed behind to keep the station active while the rest of us went for dinner at Murray's. I got a few hours of sleep before taking over again at around 1 a.m. Outside, the island was almost completely dark. Inside, we were hearing stations hundreds or thousands of kilometres away.

Sunday: The school bell

By Sunday morning, everyone was tired, but the station remained active to the final minutes.

Then, at exactly 1 p.m., the school bell rang. It was a great way to mark the end of the contest.

The club had made 1,178 contacts, but there was no time to study the log. We had a 5 p.m. ferry to catch.

The antennas came down, the radios were disconnected and the cables were coiled. We also swept the school and grounds to make sure we left no trace, not even a stray cable tie.

Before the ferry, we returned to the Beach Bar. The All-Ireland football final was getting underway and the pub quickly came to life. It gave us time for one final meal and to begin talking about next year.

Tom drove me back to Galway after the ferry returned to Cleggan. Unfortunately, I had missed the last

Beyond the Logbook



The weekend included 1,178 contest contacts, but also quicksand, buses around Galway, one-handed logging, a failed POTA activation and missing the last bus home. Those will probably be the parts I remember most.

I feel clubs should organise more trips and group activities away from their usual meeting place. It does not have to be an island or a major contest. A portable day or a simple weekend away gives people time to learn from each other and get to

bus to Dublin, so the trip gained one extra night before I took the train home on Monday.

More than the logbook

It was a real honour to be invited to Inishbofin by Shannon Basin Radio Club. I arrived as the person joining somebody else's trip, but I was quickly made to feel part of the group. Even with one arm in a cast, there was always something I could do. Some people preferred operating, while others helped with antennas, equipment, transport, photographs or the other jobs needed to make the weekend work.

know the people behind the callsigns.

Radio gave us the reason to go to Inishbofin, but the company, the learning and the sense of adventure made it such a great weekend •

Jeffrey Roe - EI7IRB

jeffreyroe@tog.ie

BunkerFest 2026

Being close to five bunkers it seemed only bright that we would have a go at the Bunkerfest 2026 the bunker chosen close to where we formed EI3CC

Kilmurrin cove is only about 5 miles from our club house and three miles from our farm so no big deal hauling the RCU or Caravan.

What is Bunkerfest

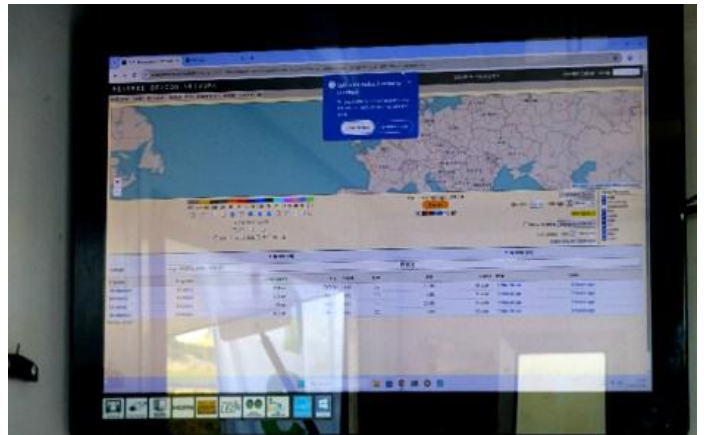
International BunkerFest is an amateur radio activity that brings together two powerful human instincts the desire to communicate across borders, and the impulse to understand and preserve our shared history. Bunkers are among the most visceral physical remnants of the conflicts and tensions that shaped the modern world. From coastal fortifications to Cold War command centres from anti-aircraft emplacements to Civil defence shelters, they exist in almost every country — silent witnesses to moments of national and international significance. WWBOTA exists to draw attention to these structures, to promote interest in them as part of our collective heritage, and to connect the amateur radio community across the international boundaries that those bunkers were so often built to defend.

We made our way to the beautiful Kilmurrin cove and prepared to set up our station for the weekend.



Our antenna of choice is our very own EI7HKB 49-1 end fed as always as reliable and ready to go antenna. We used a couple of our portable masts that we fix our flags to and in no time, we had antenna in the air ready for connection to our radio the ICOM 7300.

We had a few items to sort out from the previous weekend where we had installed a Dell Optiplex 3020 Micro Pc, this would run a pair of monitors displaying Ham Clock and Reverse beacon network or what ever we wanted on the screens.



We got the rest of the camp ready as we would be joined by other members over the weekend and this spot is always busy with sight seers and it was not long before the coaches started to turn up and enquiries being made as to what we were doing.



It was handy having the bunker in sight to be able to explain what we were at and not appear as a bunch of fruit cakes and have them looking at you with raised eyebrows when you start talking about the second world war.



It seemed the bands were under the influence of the sun and its CME's looking on the waterfall there was not

BunkerFest 2026



even a jellyfish to be seen but again we had more visitors and a couple of enthusiastic young men with a great interest in our radio and more so the CW side of things.

A few demo's of what CW was all about and in no time they had download the CW reading App to there phones and were able to see what I was sending while in QSO with another station, after I finished the QSO they were then briefed on what info exchanged and why and with that I left them practice with the key sending to each other after two hours they departed with big grins on there faces.



Later on in the early evening 40m started to show some life so after some lovely Fish and Chips we got a few contacts on various bunkers and most saying how poor the bands were and hoping for better on Saturday we did manage a few stations in Japan as 40m opened up to the far east and that made up in some way for it being bad all day.

The evening was closing in and with as usual here a lovely sunset and we had great plans for the activation the following day with some more members texting that they would be with us.

Saturday morning arrived and again we were graced with a stunning sun rise and the potential for a good day both weather and radio. Sue had arrived with lovely breakfast rolls and in no time some other members had arrived so after a nice cup of coffee we decided we would get some bunkers in the log.

The going was steady but again the bands were against us but we persevered and managed a few more bunker stations including one in EI.

But as we progressed the radio' went dead on

transmission. We have visual voltage display at the bench and it had dropped to 10.5v and that meant we had to reduce power but more to the point why had it dropped.

When I was shutting down on Friday evening I went



to disconnect the Dell PC's and they were extremely hot and the opinion was that the unit running two monitors was too much for one unit and that this had taken some of the voltage.



The other thing we looked at was the solar system and this was all but putting nothing into the batteries and with the unit stored on the farm in a heat wave the dust had settled on the panels so after cleaning they then resumed charging.

But this was to halt our day as QRP with conditions being poor was a tall order and with a busy weekend to follow we decided to pack up and make sure all the systems would be running 100% as we would be out for four days.

We are looking forward to next BunkerFest and being in EI I feel there would be a big demand for our bunkers and we have a large number from which to choose •





IRTS HAMFEST 2026



Mullingar Showgrounds, Co. Westmeath, N91 HXH0

AUGUST 8TH 12PM – AUGUST 9TH 4PM

FREE ADMISSION FOR ALL





Come along to learn, teach and get on the air – antennas, masts, Hex Beams, verticals, Spider Beams, nanoVNA demos, digital modes (FT8, RTTY), CB, coax and feeders, amplifiers, satellite and moonbounce operation, CW, vintage radios, contesting, soldering, car boot sale (Sunday from 12pm)

Overnight camping with camper vans welcome – no charge!

 **More info: irts.ie/hamfest** •  **Email: hamfest@irts.ie**

Last September, the Irish Radio Transmitters Society held Ireland's first HamFest in Mullingar, and it proved to be a brilliant weekend. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended, exhibited, volunteered and helped to make the inaugural event such a success.

HamFest returns to the Mullingar Showgrounds, Eircode N91 HXH0, on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 August. The event will run from 12.00 noon to 6.00 pm on Saturday and from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on Sunday.

Saturday will be dedicated to amateur radio exhibitions, live demonstrations and practical workshops. With interest from 20 radio clubs, visitors can expect a packed programme covering many different aspects of the hobby, with plenty of opportunities to see equipment in operation, learn new skills and meet radio amateurs from across Ireland.

One of the highlights of Saturday afternoon will be a special presentation from ComReg. This will give radio amateurs a valuable opportunity to hear directly from ComReg about its work, its engagement with the amateur radio community and matters affecting the hobby in Ireland.

On Sunday, more than 15 traders are expected for the on-site radio rally, which begins at 10.00 am sharp. Whether you are searching for your next radio, looking for parts for a project, hoping to find a bargain or simply enjoying a browse, there should be plenty to explore.

Admission and parking are completely free throughout the weekend. Free camping is also available for tents, camper vans and caravans. A burger van will be on site, providing hot food and a welcome place to pause while catching up with old friends and making new ones.

The Mullingar Showgrounds are a spacious 60-acre site located just off the N4. The entrance is on the L5706 Culleen Beg Road, and signs will be in place to guide visitors.

There is still time to get involved. Clubs, traders, demonstrators and anyone with questions about the weekend can contact IRTS Secretary Andy McCarthy at hamfest@irts.ie

From everyone at the IRTS, we hope you are enjoying the rest of the summer. We look forward to welcoming you to Mullingar for another memorable weekend of amateur radio •



Telford Hamfest

6 September 2026

Telford Hamfest returns on 6th September 2026

Doors open at 10:15am and entry is £5 (free for under 16s)

LOTS of free parking (*See important note below*)

Bring and buy

Outdoor stalls

University catering, hot and cold meals (card only)

RSGB bookstand

Stay on site (university halls bookable)

The Hamfest takes place inside a large sports hall with plenty of space between tables and also outdoor tables.

Contact Hamfest@tdars.org.uk



Important notice about Hamfest 6th September 2026 parking at Harper Adams University.
Harper Adams University has introduced an ANPR car parking system.

We have already been allocated our own unique QR Code (below) for the Telford Hamfest that includes free car parking from Friday 4th September - Monday 7th September to allow free car parking for any visitors to the Hamfest and also anyone that has booked to stay at the Harper B&B facilities.

There are two options. You can register your vehicle in advance to save time, or register on the day as you enter the car park. However, if you do it on the day, you only have 15 minutes. Car park scan below to register or via harper.ac.uk/hamfest26

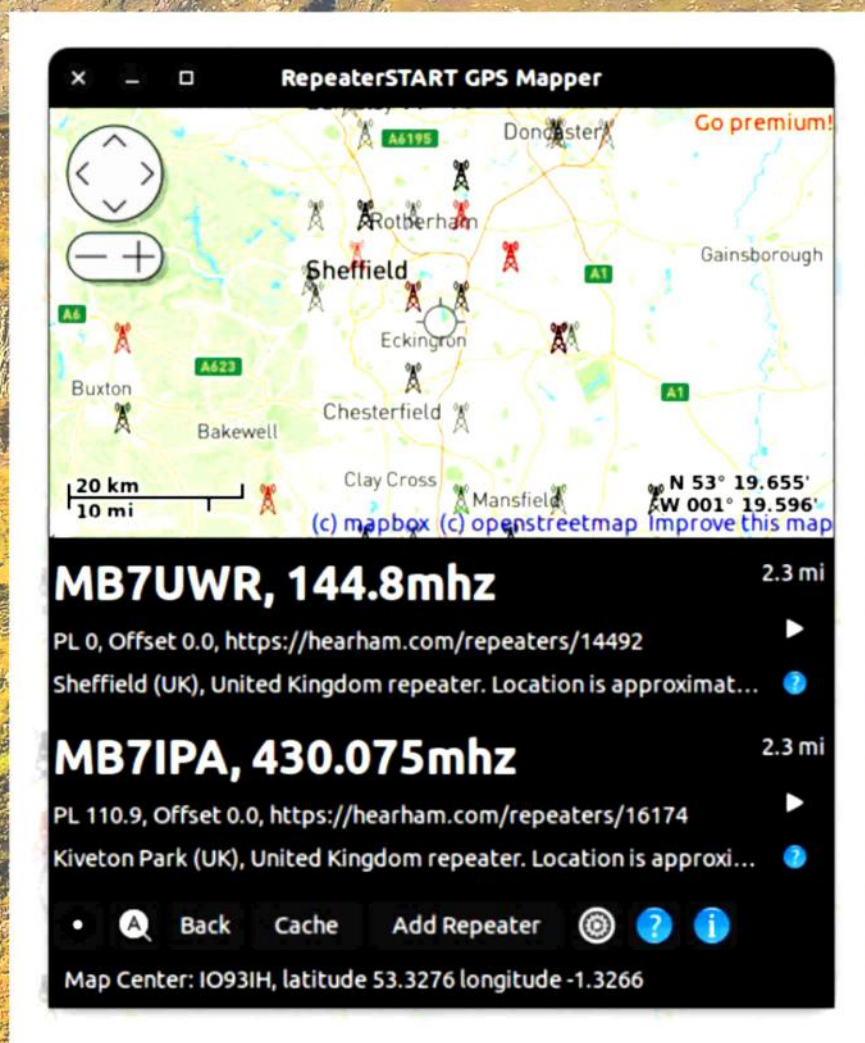


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(Monday to Friday Business Hours: 9 - 6pm)



Summits on the Air is an amateur radio awards scheme. To participate in this scheme you do not become a "member", there are no dues to be paid or membership cards to be issued. You can join in straight away! Just go to SOTAwatch to see what is happening right now in SOTA. To

post to SOTA facilities you will need to [register an account](#) and then you will be able to add alerts and spots on SOTAwatch (which will likely help a lot, if you plan to activate) and upload your chases or activations to the SOTA database. There is no charge for registering. The [SOTA Reflector](#) uses a separate user account system; so to join in with discussions there simply click on the "Sign Up" button. We recommend that you save a copy of your passwords in a safe place - every week

we have to help people who have forgotten their passwords!

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

More information:

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

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

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SOLDER SMOKE THE PODCAST



Host - Bill N2CQR

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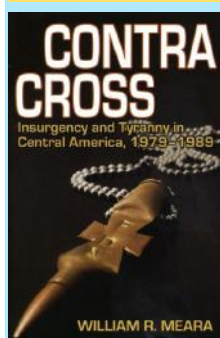


Co Host - Dean
KK4DAS



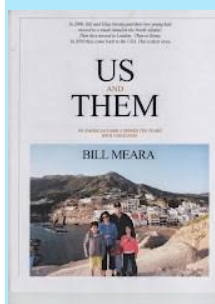
Co Host - Pete N6QW

<https://soldersmoke.blogspot.com/>



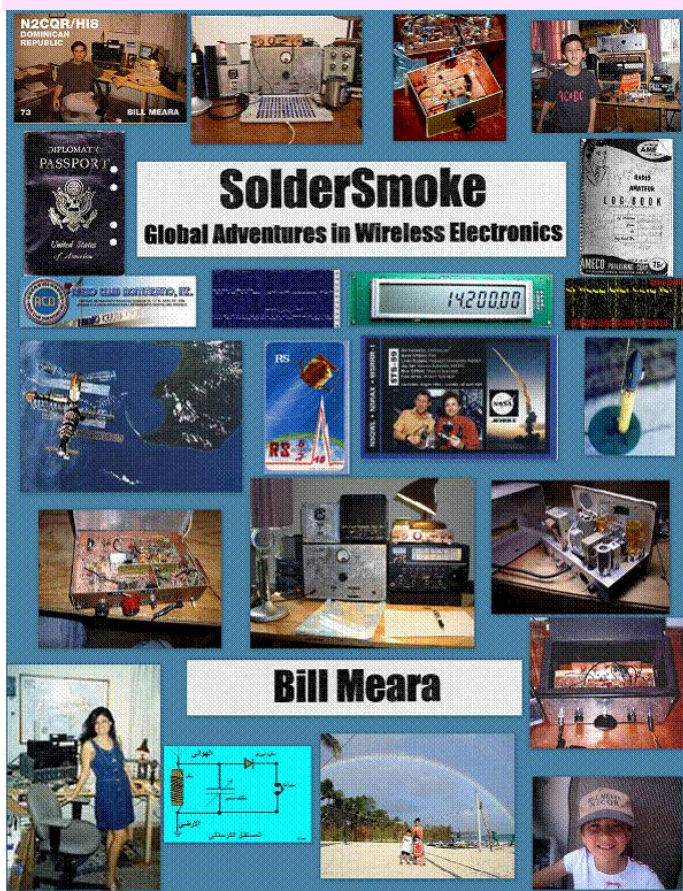
A journey through the Central American wars of the 1980s as seen through the eyes of a young American officer who worked on both sides of insurgency in the region: In El Salvador Bill Meara supported efforts to defeat insurgents; with Nicaraguans he worked to keep an insurgency alive. One of very few 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.



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London and three years in Rome. Overseas they lived in two houses and two apartments, went to five schools, used four different health care systems, experienced one earthquake, 9-11, the terrorist attack on London, tea with the Queen, the election of Barack Obama... and all the ordinary things that families go through. They lived mostly with the locals, learned Portuguese, Italian, and a bit of Cockney, and made many friends (foreign friends!) They returned to the United States in 2010 with a changed view of the world. This is their story



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