

ECHO IRELAND

IRISH RADIO TRANSMITTERS SOCIETY



Spring 2021 Celebrating 89 Years

AGM

Annual General Webinar Meeting

April 24th 2021

at

11.00 am

Registration details page 4

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**IRTS Committee members
2019 - 2020**

President: Jim Holohan EI4HH
Vice-President: Declan Horan EI9FVB

Committee

Michael Goss EI2JM
Harry O'Loughlin EI2KL
Steve Wright EI5DD
Robert Brandon EI5KH
Dave O'Connor EI6AL
Gerry Gervin EI8CC
John McCarthy EI8JA
Tom McDermott EI9CJ
Larry McGriskin EI9CN
Joe Fadden EI3IX
Niall Donohoe EI6HIB

“Echo Ireland”**Journal of the IRTS**

The Irish radio Transmitters Society published quarterly. The Society also publishes EiNews monthly. Private advertisements from paid up members are free of charge.

Articles and event information for publication should be sent to news-steam@irts.ie as a word processing file attachment, **not as a PDF**. Images and illustrations should be embedded in the file *for position only*. Make sure to put captions for all images and illustrations at the end of the article, rather than embedded within the images of the main text of your article.

Please include the full names and call signs of people included in photos and where necessary obtain their permission.

All material published is subject to editing for length, clarity, style, rep, exaggeration, spelling, punctuation, grammar, legality and taste. Permission may, on their request, be given to other societies to reproduce articles. Matter published or opinions expressed in either publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the IRTS

EiNews Appeal

EiNews is an ideal channel in which to publicise for clubs. It includes Echo Ireland, the weekly radio News and requires input from members to be successful.

Please share information about past and future events or achievements with other members by emailing short pieces, with photographs and links, to newsteam@irts.ie.

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Irish Radio Transmitters Society



Annual General Meeting via Zoom

April 24th 2021 at 11.00 am

Members are hereby notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society will be held at 11.00 am on Saturday April 24th via the Zoom platform. All members wishing to attend must register in advance by email to agm2021@irts.ie on or before April 17th. Registered members will then receive a return email with the appropriate link to join the meeting.

Committee Nominations

Rule 23.1 requires that the committee shall, at least 28 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, send to all paid-up members a list showing the nominees for the offices of President and Vice-President and eleven committee positions.

The following are the Committee's nominations:

President Jim Holohan EI4HH
Vice-President Declan Horan EI9FVB

Committee
Michael Goss EI2JM
Harry O'Loughlin EI2KL
Steve Wright EI5DD
Seán Byrne EI2HZB
Dave O'Connor EI6AL
Gerry Gervin EI8CC
Larry McGriskin EI9CN
Joe Fadden EI3IX
Niall Donohoe EI6HIB
Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX
John Ronan EI7IG

The names of other members eligible and willing to serve as President, Vice-President or as committee members shall be added to the list upon receipt of nominations in writing, by any ten members in the case of a nominee for the Presidency or Vice-Presidency or by any other two members in the case of a nominee for any of the eleven committee positions (Rule 23.2).

Annual General Meeting 2021

News and Reports

Jim Holohan EI4HH



AGM April 24th 2021

The 2020 AGM was scheduled for 19th April 2020 at the Woodford Dolmen Hotel in Co. Carlow. The South Eastern Amateur Radio Group had dedicated a lot of time and effort in organising the rally and AGM venue. Shortly after St. Patrick's Day the government announced the introduction of the first lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Needless to say but that put paid to holding the AGM at this time. The IRTS committee, due to the extraordinary circumstances that now prevailed, decided to continue with the existing committee. The hope was that, perhaps, we could hold the AGM later on in the year. However, the COVID-19 situation continued to deteriorate so the possibility of holding a physical meeting was out of the question.

The Society's committee meetings also fell foul of the travel restrictions. Consequently, virtual platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Skype and Zoom were investigated in order to come up with a solution. After some trial runs the committee decided to go with Zoom which proved to be quite adequate for our purpose.

Having conducted nine committee meetings on Zoom and learning from the experience of other organisations the committee has decided that the 2021 AGM will be conducted on the Zoom platform.

The 2021 Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday April 24th at 11 am sharp

Annual General Meeting on Zoom

In order to properly conduct the 2021 AGM on Zoom the following rules must be adhered to:

- Any IRTS member wishing to attend the virtual AGM must register at least one week in advance by sending his/her full name and callsign (SWL Number) to agm2021@irts.ie.
- Each registered applicant will subsequently receive a link which will allow access to the meeting. Questions or queries or comments regarding the Society etc. must be submitted at least one week in advance of the meeting to agm2021@irts.ie.
- This does not preclude questions/comments being presented on the day under Any Other Business. These questions/comments will be facilitated using the "Chat" facility in Zoom. Those wishing to ask a question or make a comment can type "HU", short for Hand-Up, in the Chat facility in order to attract attention.

Unfortunately, these rules must be adhered to so that an orderly meeting can take place in this virtual environment. I sincerely ask you to abide by the rules so that we can conduct a productive and comprehensive meeting.

On behalf of the Committee and myself I would like to thank you for your help and support throughout the past year and I look forward to a great and productive 2021 AGM.

Kind Regards.
Jim Holohan, EI4HH.
President, IRTS.

SEARG 2021 AGM Report

News and Reports

Sean Byrne EI2HZB



The 2021 AGM of the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group took place on Monday the 22nd of February 2021 at 8 p.m. Due to the current Covid pandemic and the restrictions in place, this year's AGM had to take place on the Zoom platform. Even though the meeting was held via the Zoom platform many members were in attendance. Club Chairman Mark EI4FNB welcomed the members online and thanked them for attending. Mark then went on to give a report on the rather quite year that 2021 had been for the club.

Mark listed the 59 activities that the club took part in throughout 2020. Even though most of the physical activations had to be cancelled, due to Covid, the club took part in several different activities including various talks and courses on the Zoom platform. He also noted the disappointment felt by the club at having to cancel the IRTS 2020 AGM which the club was due to host in Carlow in April 2020. Mark thanked all the members for supporting the club in what had been a tough year and looked forward to 2021 being a much better year for everyone.

Club treasurer Sue SWL gave a report on the finances of the club for the 2020 year noting that 2020 had been a successful year financially and that club finances are in a healthy position. She mentioned the fact that anyone that had joined the club in 2020 got free membership for 2021 due to the club being inactive with the Covid restrictions. She also noted that membership was at a record high with close on 55 members at present.

Chairman Mark EI4FNB then thanked the committee members for all their hard work over the previous year and the following committee was then deemed elected for 2021:

Chairman: Mark Kilmartin EI4FNB

Vice Chairman: Wayne Lewis EI7HKB

Secretary: John Tubbritt EI3HQB

Treasurer: Sue McCormick SWL

Public Relations Officer: Sean Byrne EI2HZB

Club Officer 1: John Ronan EI7IG

Club Officer 2: Eoghan Kinane EI5HBB

Club Officer 3: Roger Greengrass EI8KN.



For anyone that wishes to find out more about the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group and their activities you can drop them an email to southeasternarg@gmail.com or please feel free to go along to any of their meetings. You can check their website www.searg.ie and you can also join them on Facebook and follow them on Twitter. Sean Byrne EI2HZB

East Leinster Radio Club

The East Leinster Radio Club will broadcast the weekly IRTS News Bulletin on a trial basis on the first Sunday each month starting on April 4th at 1030.

The frequency is 70.350MHz and the mode is FM.

The newsreaders will be Dom EI5IAB, Tom EI5IEB and Frank EI8HIB.

Your support for this new broadcast would be appreciated.



Publications Library



Members are reminded that the IRTS web site has a Publications Library, where scanned copies in PDF format of old IRTS publications, principally newsletters, as far back as 1948 are available. This Library forms an important digital record of past society activities.

We encourage members to search for old IRTS publications that are not already on the site and send them to Joe EI7GY for scanning.

Shannon Basin Radio Club



News and Reports

Brian Canning EI8IU

The Shannon Basin Radio Club has been very active over the last few months.

Despite the current lockdown we have had several virtual meetings as well as talks and demonstrations. Enda, EI2II gave a talk on Logger 32, giving lots of help and advice on how to get the full benefits from this logging programme.

Tom EI4HCB gave a talk on the benefits of using good quality coax and explained how the losses of the various coax types can have a huge impact the power getting to the antenna. Owen EI4GGB and Peter also contributed to the talk.



We were very lucky to have Bob Heil K9EID from Heil Sound give us a fantastic talk at the end of January. After contacting Bob to see if he would give us a talk, he was only too willing to help and the time and date was confirmed. A trial run took place, which went fine. The Zoom link was sent to our members and on the night only a few were unable to join. Bob started by explaining how he started playing the organ as a youngster in 1956, he also showed a picture of his first shack as K9EID also from 1956. Bob was one of the first American amateurs to have a six-meter SSB transceiver which he built himself. In 1966 Bob had a small music shop where he started customising Hammond Organs and fixing guitar amplifiers. Soon after, local bands started getting Bob to set up their sound systems and it went from there to bands like The Who and Grateful Dead. One good friend of Bobs is Joe Walsh WB6ACU of The Eagles. Bob went on to explain how he started making microphones and gave several demonstrations on phasing, noise cancellation etc. As he has done work with the major amateur radio manufacturers, he showed some of the TX audio settings for our various rigs. After nearly two hours he signed off with a quick rendition on his beloved organ.

It was really an insightful couple of hours spent with a true genius and gentleman. We are very privileged to

have an individual like Bob in our hobby.

We would like to thank Bob for taking the time to talk to us. There is a lot more info about his work on the web and Wikipedia gives a very good profile of his life and achievements. Our intention is to put up some of Bob's talks on YouTube shortly.



We will be having more demonstrations and talks over the next few months. If anyone would like to give a talk on any relevant topic please contact any club member.

Our nets are continuing to be popular. Please see the clubs Facebook page and DX cluster for the frequencies as they can vary due to QRM etc. The nets are Mondays at 20:00 on 1.847 Mhz, Wednesdays at 20:00 on EI2CAR (club repeater) and Thursdays at 20:00 on 3.720.

Thanks to Mark EI6JK for his continuing work on the repeater.

The club would like to welcome all their new members and hopefully once the restrictions are lifted we can look forward to meeting up and taking part in some contests!



QSL Enquiries

Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX

News and Reports



Hello all,

Over the last few months I have had a few phone calls regarding QSL cards. Normally it's the usual enquiries: "I have had no cards for months", or, "Do I have to leave stamp address envelopes with my QSL manager?"

COVID-19 has caused a lot of QSL bureaus to shut down and this explains some delays in receipt of cards. Nevertheless, the reason you may not be receiving any cards could be due to several reasons which I will try to clarify below.

- If there are no cards for you please note that while you might send your cards to the bureau every time you have worked a station some people may only reply to cards once or twice a year, unless you have sent one directly to them with an SAE. With postage costs it makes sense to hold onto a single card until you have a sizeable number of cards to forward.
- In relation to leaving SAEs with the QSL manager, this is not necessary as your membership fee covers this.
- Concerning Covid-19, in order to prevent the spread of the virus I have been asked to hold on to cards for several months and if space does not permit this I was instructed to bin their cards or return them to the sender. If cards are received it is not recommended to put them into a microwave to decontaminate any virus as some inks contain a metallic element!!!
- The QSL manager may not have up to date information on call signs so, please ensure that they have your new and older call signs to forward on your cards. Help us to help you.

QSL DEPARTMENT



WE
NEED
YOUR
DETAILS

Best 73, and be safe
Pat Fitzpatrick
EI2HX

For Sale

Acom 1500, HF + 6m linear amplifier, buyer collects.

Price **€ 3,200** (non negotiable)

Contact: Gerard Scannell EI5KF

Mobile: 085 1035681

For Sale

2 ICOM IC-R75 communications receivers in perfect working order, comes with original manual and photo copied manual and original power units and both boxes.

Price **€400 each**

Contact: Gerard Nicholson EI887

Phone: 021 4859759

Email: gerard.nicholson@yahoo.com

For Sale

Kenwood TM-D710E.P.W.O, purchased last year from Radioworld UK. Price **€ 350**

Kenwood TS-140S works as it should, includes mike, leads and manual. Price **€ 350**

Kenwood TH28Ein perfect working order, hardly used and boxed. Price **€ 150**

Contact : Joe Earley EI4GX

Mobile: 083 1813548

For Sale

Barker & Williamson A.T.U. Model VS300A

Price **€125**

Contact: Bill Furlong EI9EW

Mobile: 087 6791471

New Additions to the Publications Library

News and Reports

Joe Ryan EI7GY



The IRTS Publications Library at www.irts.ie/library contains newsletters and other IRTS publications up to the year 2000. The library has been growing steadily since its initial development in 2016.

Thanks to an attic search by two of our members we have recently made some significant additions to the library, including a complete set of publications for 1948 and 1949. The additions from the 1940s are of particular interest, as 1948 was the year when IRTS started publishing "IRTS News", a regular newsletter / journal (there may have been an earlier effort at a members' journal, however we do not have copies of any pre-1948 publications). In the first issue of IRTS News, dated January 1948, editor Howard Coombs EI6J asked:

"What gear are you using? What D. X. are you working? When are you working it? On what bands? Have you something special in the way of receiving gear? Are you hearing something interesting on unusual frequencies? Are you off the air? Why? The things that you can write and tell us are endless and of interest to others. Remember whether this Bulletin continues to appear or not is up to you. Unless you write and keep writing it will just fade away again."

Reading through subsequent issues, there appears to have been a good response to EI6J's appeal for input, possibly helped by his fairly strident reminders from time to time! The 1940s newsletters provide a good insight into the activities of radio experimenters at a time when they were working mostly with home-built or modified war-surplus equipment. There is plenty of nostalgic material here for anyone familiar with valve equipment.

I came across a few prescient observations that are worth mentioning here; the November 1948 issue introduces the transistor as "a device which may easily render the vacuum tube obsolete"; in the December 1949 issue, Ian Morris EI6U expressed the view that "... good telegraphy is an art which is gradually taking second place to other methods of communication ... in the spheres of shipping and aviation operating is becoming a press-button **fone** affair, who knows but the last CW men will be amateurs". How right he was!

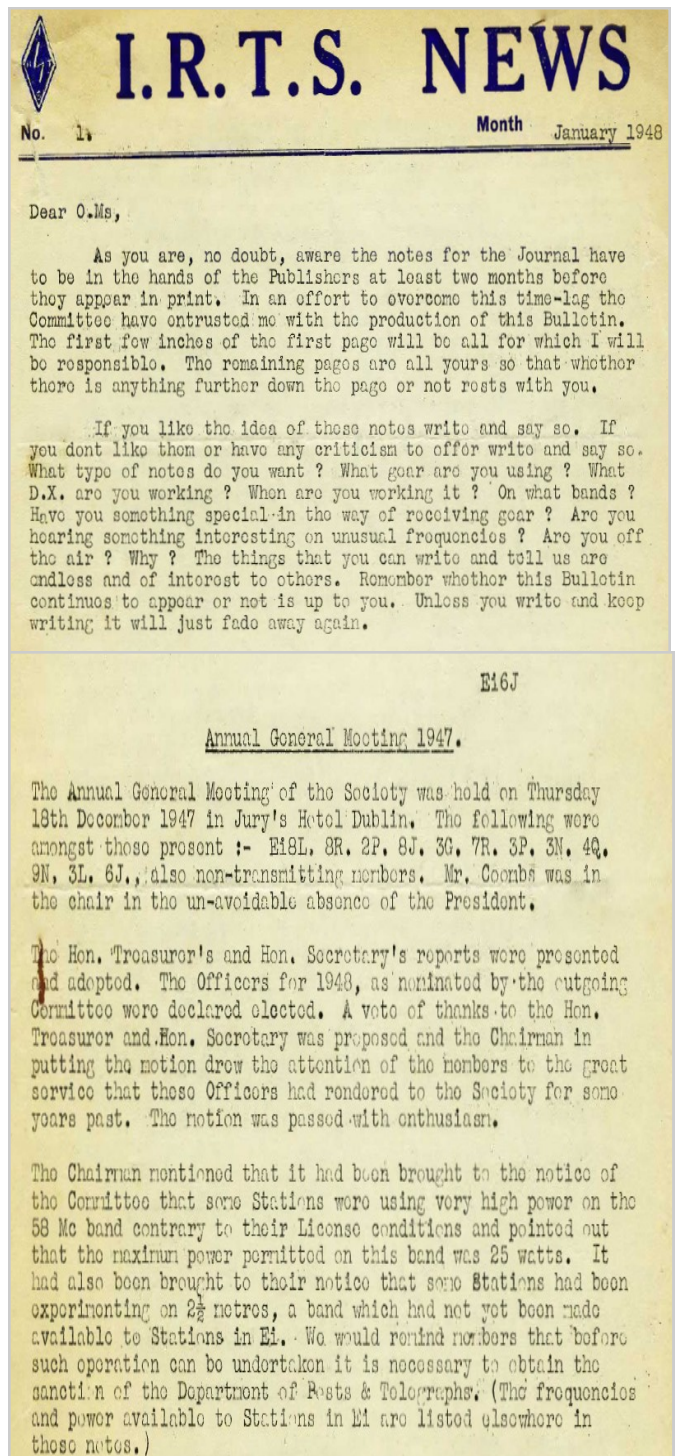
The recent additions to the library also include many newsletters from the 1950s, 60s and 70s. In all, more than 40 publications containing 400 pages of news, construction articles and commentary have been added: the latest additions are highlighted on the web site. All documents have been processed by OCR software, to make them searchable.

The Publications Library now holds 268 publications covering the period 1948 to 2000, constituting a

significant record of amateur radio activity in the second half of the 20th century. This is complemented by the archive at www.irts.ie/ei2b (Radio Experiments by Colonel Dennis EI2B), which covers much of the early years of the 20th century.

There are still some gaps, which we would like to fill. If anyone has suitable (IRTS-published) material to fill a gap in the library, please consider lending it to me for scanning: my contact details are on the web site.

Joe Ryan EI7GY www.irts.ie/library





80 Metres Counties Contest, 1st January 2021

The New Year's Day contest is one of the best supported contests in the IRTS contest calendar. This year we tried a shorter contest period (just one hour instead of two), and a later start time (1700 instead of 1500). The new arrangements worked well, providing a fairly hectic but enjoyable hour of activity, a good way to start the year!

53 station logs with 1,441 QSOs were submitted, allowing 971 QSOs (67%) to be cross checked. Excluding uniques, 76 EI/GI stations and 29 overseas stations were in the logs: overseas stations were strong contributors to the QSO total, accounting for one-third of all QSOs. A few CW ops expressed disappointment at the low level of CW activity – which was indeed low, at just over 7% of all QSOs.

There was some self-spotting during the contest – a clear and objective breach of the Contest Rules – resulting in penalties being applied. Self-spotting or asking to be spotted is not permitted in any contest: also, for IRTS contests, with the sole exception of VHF/UHF Field Day, any use of the DX Cluster or a similar network is against the Rules.

VHF/UHF Field Day Rules

In the Winter 2020 issue of Echo Ireland I signalled that I was planning to review the sections in the VHF/UHF Field Day Rules. The purpose of the review was to establish how we might encourage more participation in this event, and with this in mind, I proposed a number of changes:

1. Separate contests for each of the 5 bands, with an Open and Restricted section for each band.
2. The Restricted Section contests would have an operating period limit of 6 hours and a power limit of 100 watts PEP
3. A station may enter a contest on one or more bands / all five bands

Contesting in 2021

At the time of writing, “Level 5” public health restrictions in EI are expected to be in place at least until early April, requiring us to stay at home except for travel for work, education or other essential purposes, and to take exercise within a 5km limit. This seems to rule out operating portable or mobile in a contest. Therefore our Easter Monday (5th April) 2m and 70cms Counties Contests will not be able to proceed in the traditional format, as portable hilltop stations have always accounted for the vast majority of county multipliers (and QSOs) in these contests. Instead, on Easter Monday, we will run a 2m contest for home-QTH stations, using distance-scoring. Rules for this one-off contest will be published shortly. I don't think a 70cms contest would be viable without hilltop stations.

Award Winners 80 Metres Counties Contest (1st January 2021)

SSB Only - High Power, EI/GI Stations	MIØRRE, Robert Rantin
SSB Only - Low Power, EI/GI Stations	EI2IP, Robbie Phelan
SSB/CW - High Power, EI/GI Stations	EI5IX, Pat Baynes
SSB/CW - Low Power, EI/GI Stations	EI9FK, Bill Somerville-Large
SSB Only, Outside EI/GI	MØXDX, Paul Dumpleton
SSB/CW, Outside EI/GI	MØDDT, Colin Potter

Links

Contest rules & calendar: www.irts.ie/contests

Contest results: www.irts.ie/results

UKEICC contests: www.ukeicc.com

SD Contest Logger

(free, and perfect for

HF Counties Contests) www.ei5di.com



Irish Radio Transmitters Society
Treasurer's Report for the year to 31st December 2020
for presentation at the Annual General Webinar Meeting Saturday 24th April 2021



I have pleasure in presenting the Accounts for the year 2020 to members of the Society prior to their being submitted for approval by members. This would normally be at the 2020 AGM, details of which can hopefully be circulated as circumstances permit.

The Income and Expenditure account shows a surplus of €3,933 at year-end. This figure is higher than projected as the invoice for distribution of the December edition of Echo Ireland had not been received by end December. That invoice for approximately €1,500 will be included in the 2021 accounts. The year saw a significant trend towards electronic download of Echo Ireland, following the upgrade of archived material to a higher resolution format. If this continues it is expected that printing and distribution costs of the magazine should show a reduction in the coming year.

Subscription income for the year has shown a welcome increase due to a significant increase in the number of new members joining the Society in 2020.

There were a number of items listed under income and expenditure that were impacted by Covid. Only one HAREC examination was held at the beginning of the year with the result that exam fees showed a reduction. That was offset by a reduction in room hire for committee meetings, which switched to a virtual platform early in the year. There are no costs associated with the AGM, which had to be cancelled. That in turn led to no costs for refurbishment of trophies normally associated with awards at the AGM. Most other income and expenditure items were broadly in line with previous years.

Income from AREN membership increased in 2020. Purchase of essential items of communications equipment led to a slight loss on the AREN account at yearend. AREN is an essential and high profile component of IRTS activity in Ireland and is not expected to be self sustaining. It is a credit to its membership that donations to AREN almost match their annual running costs.

Details of any changes in the PAR fund and the Donations Fund can be seen in the notes to the Balance Sheet. One donation of €450 from the PAR fund was approved by the committee for the IRISS Project during the year.

To summarise, the Society again remains in a healthy financial position going in to 2021.

Once again, thanks to Bob O'Connell EI5CK and Brendan Lynch EI6GA who applied their usual thorough scrutiny in auditing the accounts prior to signing them off.

Balance sheet at 31st December 2020

	2019	2020
Fixed Assets		
Equipment	0	1,093
Prize Bonds	89	89
Irish Life & Permanent Shares	0	0
Current Assets		
Stock for Re-sale	588	583
Cash on Deposit	60,000	60,004
Cash in Bank	14,362	18,748
Total Assets	75,041	80,517
Total Liabilities	0	0
Surplus Assets over Liabilities	75,041	80,517
Represented by		
General Reserve	63,259	66,575
IARU Conference Reserve	4,306	6,306
Promoting Amateur Radio Fund	4,262	3,812
Donations Fund	3,579	4,194
Stock Depreciation @20% PA	-175	-180
	75,041	80,517

Irish Radio Transmitters Society
Income / Expenditure
for the year to 31st December 2020

	2019	2020
	Income €	Income €
Subscriptions	23590	25820
Donations	1576	625
PAR Fund	0	0
Advertising	0	0
Book & CD sales	-50	105
Interest & Currency Gain/ Loss	-79	-30
Exam Fee & Morse Tests	2000	1256
Special Call QSL	157	47
AREN	267	510
Other income	224	22
Total Income	27,684	28,355
	Expenditure €	Expenditure €
Echo Ireland Printing	3371	8065
Echo Ireland Postage	2806	5380
Postage	887	743
QSL Outgoing	979	793
QSL Incoming	1068	1366
Paypal Commissions	779	926
Insurance	1398	1398
Committee Meeting Room Hire	1062	290
Stationary	346	460
AGM Costs	533	0
IARU Dues	1406	1234
Licence Fees	740	0
IARU Convention Reserve	2000	2000
Bank Charges	374	363
Trophies Etc	470	0
Website Costs	265	306
Donations	0	0
AREN	50	550
Comreg	0	0
Par Fund	0	0
Exceptional Items	0	222
Yota	0	0
Miscellaneous	325	325
Total Expenditure	18,859	24,421
Net Income/Deficit	8,825	3,933

Irish Radio Transmitters Society
Notes on and forming part of the Accounts
for the year to 31st December 2020

Income

Subscriptions and Income received during the year were treated as cash received and credited to the income and expenditure account. No provision was made for subscriptions in arrears. No provision was made for treating subscriptions falling after 31st December as prepayments.

General Reserve

Balance as at 1st January 2019	€ 63,259
Surplus at 31 st December	€ 3931
Transfer to Donations Fund	€ -615
General Reserve carried forward	€ 66,575

IARU Conference Reserve

Balance as at 1st January 2019	€ 4,306
Transferred from general reserve	€ 2,000
Total reserves 31 st December	€ 6,306

Par Fund

Balance as at 1st January 2019	€ 4,262
Grant to ARISS Project	€ -450
Balance on 31 st December	€ 3,812

Donations Fund

Balance as at 1st January 2019	€ 3,579
SK Sale	€ 615
Balance on 31 st December	€ 4,194

Cash on Deposit

Balance as at 1st January 2019	€ 60,002
Balance on 31 st December	€ 60,004

Balance Aren

Balance as at 1st January 2019	€ -735
Funds generated by AREN	€ -40
Balance on 31 st December	€ -775 (this included in general reserve)

We the undersigned, acting as Honorary Auditors of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, have compared the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account Balance Sheet and Notes thereon, with the Books and Vouchers and Certify that they are correct and in accordance with them.


Robert O'Donnell EISCK


Brendan Lynch EIOGA

Date:  20/01/2021



Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Committee Report

for presentation at the Annual General Webinar Meeting Saturday 24th April 2021



Committee Meetings

Eleven committee meetings were held during 2020, nine of which were held on the Zoom platform.

Accounts for 2020

These have been reported in Echo Ireland.

Web Site Report

Our web site irts.ie and sister site hamradio.ie provide information on the society's activities and other amateur radio events. The web and mail servers also support the regular circulation of news bulletins and newsletters to members.

The web editors keep the material on the site up to date, based on input from society officers and members. This process has worked well but is not ideal, as individual officers are unable to personally maintain sections of the web site relevant to their own areas of responsibility. This constraint is due to the nature of the software platform used to deliver the web site. Options for switching to a different platform that could be managed by a wider group of society's officers were reviewed in detail during the year by the web editors in conjunction with Donald EI4IMB, and their conclusions were considered by the IRTS committee. Following this review it was decided to retain the current platform for now. *Joe EI7GY & Séamus EI8BP*

Membership Report

Membership of the Society increased substantially through 2020, a total of 989 members at year end, compared with 921 at the start of the year. In particular, the Society was delighted to welcome 64 new SWL members, the highest number in that category for many years.

The work being done by Clubs in generating new membership through training courses and support for examination candidates is to be commended. In particular, special recognition must be given to Dave Moore EI4BZ and his team of instructors for their work in organising and running virtual classes for those new members who are studying for the HAREC examination. *Dave O'Connor EI6AL*

IARUMS

The International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring System (IARUMS) is a service run by volunteers to monitor HAM radio bands for illegal intruders. Monitoring takes place in many countries around the globe on a daily basis. Intruders are identified and reported to the different national telecommunication authorities in the hope that those government agencies take steps to remove those illegal users from our parts of the spectrum.

Frequent intruders are mainly military organisations using radar signals, fishermen and broadcasting authorities. The radar signals are by far, at the moment, the biggest intruders and make the use of some bands like the 40 and 20 metre band sometimes very difficult. The pulsing noisy signals make any communication sometimes impossible. So far, any attempts to stop these strong interferences have been unsuccessful.

The IRTS takes part in the monitoring service. The current IARUMS officer is Michael-EI3GYB. Any intruder noted using our bands can be reported to him by email to: michaelhermannfoertig@gmail.com

Michael Foertig EI3GYB

Contests Report

Our contests in 2020 were affected by the restrictions on travel and social gatherings in place for public health reasons: we were unable to run any Field Day contests, and the Easter Monday 70cm and 2m contests were also cancelled. However, we ran eight EI/GI Counties Contests along with distance-scoring contests on five VHF/UHF bands. Most of these events were well supported, a lot of this support coming from contesters who also participate in international contests. We have, however, structured our contest rules to attract operators who do not typically enter other contests; we therefore accept logs in a variety of formats, and allow up to 2 weeks for log submission. The success of this policy is evidenced by the fact that more than half the logs submitted by EI stations in 2020 were handwritten or in a non-standard format; this delays log-checking and results publication, but is worth it as it encourages wider support for IRTS contests among the amateur radio community.

Contesting may be a minority interest among radio amateurs, but it is interesting to note that, excluding "uniques", there were 165 different EI call signs in the logs submitted in 2020. *Joe Ryan EI7GY*

Examination Board

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Joe, EI7GY for his oversight, over many years, of the Examination Board. He was ably assisted by a number of society members. He handed over the process in a very meticulous fashion to the incoming Board. Comreg have been informed of and approved the new arrangements.

Covid 19 restrictions have of course adversely impacted on plans for conducting an examination this Spring. It is hoped that this will be resolved satisfactorily and that we can proceed soon so that many who are ready to sit the examination, not least those who have completed our training course, are facilitated. *Gerry Gervin EI8CC*

QSL Bureau Report

The outgoing bureau processed 24232 cards in 2020 (total weight 75 Kilo), an increase over the 22600 (total weight 70 Kilo) processed in 2019. It is a significant increase considering the Bureau shipped no cards at all in March, April and May of 2020 due to the onset of the pandemic lockdown. There were also difficulties encountered throughout the year in collecting incoming cards from the PO box due to travel restrictions. The cost of operating the outgoing bureau in 2020 was €793, a decrease compared with 2019 despite the higher numbers. The cost of distributing the incoming cards in 2020 was €1,366, an increase over 2019. This figure covers both distribution of incoming cards to the sub managers plus their costs in posting cards to individual members.

There were a number of temporary closures of overseas bureau during the year caused by postal authorities refusing packages. These were generally of short duration. At year end the only countries still refusing incoming packages were Argentina, Venezuela and Bosnia-Herzegovina. *Dave O'Connor EI6AL*

Comreg Liaison

The Commission for Communications Regulation (Comreg) is the statutory authority responsible for amateur radio licensing. Regular contact is maintained by the society and there is a good working relationship with the Licensing and Spectrum Management Sections of the Commission. The importance of the society maintaining good relations with the licensing authority cannot be overstated. The Comreg liaison role is pivotal to ensuring that the amateur radio service does not just endure in its present form but continues to develop as a relevant pursuit for enthusiasts of all ages and makes an important contribution to the science of radio communications. There have been some personnel changes over the past year among the Comreg officials with whom we liaise and good working relationships have been maintained. While there have been no major regulatory matters arising a number of issues around renewal of lapsed licences have been dealt with and resolved promptly and satisfactorily as a result of the good rapport we have maintained with Comreg. *Gerry Gervin EI8CC*

IARU Region 1 progress in 2020

We all realise that 2020 was an extremely unusual year. An IARU Region 1 Conference and Workshop in Novi Sad was planned in October but in the end the Conference element took place virtually. Furthermore IARU has had to modify its working arrangements to take account of the COVID pandemic. COVID has caused a major change in the working patterns of the entities with which IARU interacts, with all meetings moving on-line. The IARU Region 1 Workshop is now planned for October 2021.

ITU WRC: Preparations for WRC-23 started quickly in CEPT following the close of WRC-19 however the position on the 1296 MHz band remains a cause of concern. Member Societies have been briefed and will be informed of future developments. WRC work in Region 1 is led by the Spectrum and Regulatory Liaison Committee (SRLC). Barry, G4SJH has taken over the chairmanship of the SRLC from Dave, EI3IO.

CEPT: In CEPT in addition to the 1296 MHz issue, Wireless Power Transfer (WPT) also remains a concern. Commercial and other pressures are significant but our concerns are shared by several telecommunications administrations and other spectrum stake holders.

ATU: IARU participated in a special workshop convened by the African Telecommunications Union in order to present the emergency communications support capability of the amateur service and also the help available from the STARS programme.

EMC: IARU R1 will continue to take part in CISPR activities.

PRC: The Political Relations Committee of IARU still chaired by Séamus EI8BP works in the EU and takes part in significant committees mainly in relation to EMC matters, but also spectrum policy issues.

Website: The launch of the new suite of IARU websites in early 2020 was a milestone in bringing the IARU brand into global focus. Further work is planned on websites to enhance IARU R1's offering.

Spectrum: Our spectrum committees (HF and VHF+) continue to work on important areas such as band-plans and spectrum monitoring. The VHF+ Committee also continues to coordinate IARU-R1-sponsored contests in that part of the spectrum through its Contest Working Group. Dick, PA2DW, has now taken over the Chair of the VHF+ Committee.

Youth: The Youth programme continues to develop successfully, with Philipp, DK6SP, taking over the Chairmanship from Lisa, PA2LS.

STARS: Some progress has been made in STARS to re-establish contact with several societies in Africa and hope that this will allow more progress to be made in supporting growth.

Finance: The financial outcome for 2020 was very satisfactory, due to the pandemic and the cessation of in-person meetings. IARU has a significant under-spend for the year, although some of that has been earmarked for future projects. It remains to be seen what 2021 will bring, but it seems likely that for the next six months at least, this pattern of spend will continue.

ASMG: In the Arab Spectrum Management Group (ASMG) there has been limited direct engagement with the group. However work has continued with individual member societies in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) sub-region.

RCC: The RCC represents the views of the Telecommunications administrations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). As per ASMG, ATU and CEPT IARU Region 1 participates in RCC meetings and supports CIS member societies wherever possible.

Administrative Council: The Administrative Council of the IARU has reacted positively to Region 1's suggestion that the organization should start intensive work on the future direction for amateur radio. This work will run in parallel with our own activity around the 2021 workshop. More generally, the Region 1 President and Secretary have played an active part in the Administrative Council work and meetings. With the shift towards a more coordinated way of working across the IARU world, it is important that Region 1 plays its full part in making input to and supporting AC initiatives.

Dave Court EI310

EMC Report 2020

Following the transition of the EMC role from Brendan EI6IZ to myself in July 2020 the number of reported instances have been minimal perhaps influenced by the current pandemic situation and associated curtailments.

Participation in the Virtual EMC Committee meetings during the IARU Region 1 conference during October was informative as to developments at a wider level and provided insight to what is coming down the road in terms of the new interference sources .

There was one reported instance of HF interference (from the Southern area) in November resulting in reception problem on the 20M band which was very effectively handled by the amateur involved taking a logical and common sense approach. Lack of Reports however does not mean there are no problems and as we all can see and hear from a tune across the Band there is an ever increasing and changing "Spuri" for the want of a better word. One of the most important actions within our control is to make sure "our own Home is in order" by ensuring we do not utilise internal mains wiring for Broadband distribution (no matter how simple it is), use of quality Ethernet patch cables and opting or specifying use of Foil Twisted Pair (FTP) rather than UTP cable for internal wiring infrastructure complete with appropriate termination hardware to maintain system integrity.

A worth while exercise is at an appropriate time switch off all active mains powered equipment and note if reception improvement occurs which may lead to identification of problematic equipment. (Power supplies with ageing capacitors etc).

At a higher level, we need to avail of every opportunity to press for an appropriate service level agreement with Comreg to ensure that where an interference problem is not resolved at local level a formal process can be initiated with a defined timeline for adjudication.

Going forward I appreciate and look forward to hearing from anyone who has perhaps encountered interference situations especially some unusual ones and any work around to resolve.

Liam Mangan EI4GB

Youth Report

In what was a challenging year for the typical Youth activities such as JOTA, there was an increased effort to engage with youngsters on Social media. This year we saw the creation of a EI0YOTA Facebook page, currently the page has over 70 likes and a recent post reached over 3000 people, mainly as a result of it being shared by many other individuals. It is the intention to grow this following by posting regularly about youth activities within the hobby.

As good as a Facebook is, there are a few drawbacks, in many ways we are preaching to the converted, most of the page followers are already within the hobby. In order to reach a new younger demographic a TikTok page was setup under the name EI0YOTA. TikTok is a newly emerging social media platform popular amongst those under the age of 18. It is the intention that posting some introductory amateur radio videos and exciting content on TikTok will raise awareness of the hobby amongst youth and hopefully encourage more youth to join us.

EI0JOTA/EI0YOTA: For a long time Scouting and radio have gone hand in hand and thankfully the past year was no different. Despite the added complications Marty EI2IAB and John EI3ISB ran successful activations of the YOTA and JOTA callsigns during 2020.

YOTA Month: The highlight of the work the IRTS have been doing to involve youth in radio is taking part in December YOTA month. YOTA 2020 was successful for EI0YOTA to say the least. 46 Stations took part and EI0YOTA achieved 4500 QSOs, putting us within the top 10 participating stations.

It must be stressed that the success of the 2020 EI0YOTA activation lies with those who took the time to activate the EI0YOTA callsign with their families. At the time it was impossible to setup a large group station or operate a club station, all the QSO's were made from modest home stations, underscoring the huge effort made by the following:

- EI8KW = Ryan (youngest Ham in Ireland)
- EI6KW = Slav & daughter
- EI9HAB = Adrian & daughter Siobhan
- EI6AL = Dave
- EI9FVB = Declan
- EI7GEB = David & daughter Hannah
- EI6HIB = Niall

The Future: It is hard to plan with much certainty, however we are eager to replace the JOTA event that was cancelled in October. When safe to do so, an in-person youth meet up/SOTA-activation would be a good opportunity for the active youngsters we have to meet one another.

With the success of the Theory Classes there is now a clear path to obtaining a licence with the support of the IRTS, it will be the case that as queries related to getting licensed or getting involved in the hobby come in via the social media pages, we can now point them in the direction of quality training and teaching.

Niall Donohoe EI6HIB

Awards Committee Report

Despite the various levels of Covid-19 lockdowns, our members have actively taken part in numerous IRTS contests. Participation in these contests was greatly facilitated by some rule changes which were necessarily dictated by social distancing restrictions. The Worked EI Counties Award continues to attract interest. In 2020 there were successful applications from Northern Ireland, England and Poland.

Unlike other years, Awards for Services to the Society or to Amateur Radio and Awards to IRTS Members for Other Achievements attracted the highest number of nominations for quite some time. It is heartening to see such appreciation of the work and effort of our colleagues being recognised.

A review of the Brendan Award is currently being undertaken. This is a timely and much needed exercise in view of the advancement in communication technology.

Jim Holohan EI4HH

Publications

These consist of EiNews, an electronic newsletter published on the first of each month and emailed to 447 subscriber-members, and Echo Ireland, our quarterly journal.

EiNews is produced by Steve Wright EI5DD and is an excellent vehicle for clubs and members to publish their news and activities.

Veronica Holohan took over the Echo Ireland Editorial position in December 2019 and has produced six editions to date. Thanks to the commitment and enthusiasm of our members we have been able to publish some very interesting technical and historical articles.

Following requests from members the downloadable archived editions of Echo Ireland on the IRTS website are now high resolution copies.

Jim Holohan EI4HH

AREN

Throughout 2019-2020, hundreds of man hours were directly spent by members on public service activities. This does not include the time spent preparing for events, training or meeting with served agencies. Many thanks to all members for donating their time and expertise to public service. Anyone interested in what AREN does should feel free to contact John Ronan, EI7IG (ei7ig@aren.ie) or via the contact details on the IRTS website.

John Ronan EI7IG

HF Manager's Report for 2020

The IRTS HF Manager is a member of the IARU-R1 HF Committee which has the following terms of reference:

- Co-ordinates the activities of amateurs in Region 1 with respect to frequency allocations below 30 MHz
- Ensures that adequate use is made of existing allocations and to consider possible new allocations
- Co-ordinates and promotes scientific investigations by member societies of IARU Region 1 on all frequencies below 30 MHz.
- Recommends IARU Region 1 band-plans with the goal of more effective communications below 30 MHz.
- Encourages special projects on the frequency allocations below 30 MHz aimed at advancing amateur radio communication techniques
- Assist in the protection of amateur allocations below 30 MHz from possible loss by stimulating activity and demonstrating effective and efficient usage of spectrum allocated to the amateur service
- Plans and conducts IARU Region 1 HF contests on these bands
- Provides advice on interference problems relating to frequencies below 30 MHz Member Societies through:
 - an Internet reflector discussion group and
 - the Region 1 Website.

The HF Manager's Handbook (V 9.0) and IARU HF Band-plans can be found at: [Documents](#).

Dave Court EI3IO

VHF/Microwave Report – February 2021

I think everyone will agree that Covid-19 impacted greatly on the VHF /P end of our hobby through 2020 and so far into 2021, SOTA & the various VHF contests especially.

It was encouraging to see the many VHF Nets across the country, which resulted in increased activity on the VHF/UHF band spectrum, not forgetting the IRTS News Service on VHF provided by the many Clubs & Groups around the country, reports indicate an

increased number of reception reports after the news broadcasts since the Government lockdown.

During the past year we have seen a number of new repeaters come on air, SIRG Cork 70cm DMR Repeater (EI7FXD) located near Cork city, Shannon Basin Club 2m Repeater (EI2CAR) located in Castlerea, Co. Roscommon, Galway VHF Group 70cm DMR Repeater (EI7LDR) located at Loughrea, Co. Galway & the GREC 2m FM/Fusion Repeater (EI2TBR) located at Loughrea, Co. Galway. During 2021 the Galway VHF Group 4m Echolink/Allstar Gateway (EI4GCG) located in Galway city will go on air as will the newly licensed Mayo VHF Group 4m Echolink/Allstar Gateway (EI4MOG) located in Derrinogue, Co. Mayo.

On the VHF beacon front, 4m (EI4RF), 5m (EI1KNH), 6m (EI0SIX) & 8m (EI1KNH) are all operational from Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow. It's reported that the 2m (EI2DKH) beacon will be back on air by mid-summer. Further info can be found on www.QRZ.com

The EIRSAT-1 CubeSat (437.100Mhz), Ireland's first satellite built by students at University College Dublin, is due for launch on the Vega rocket sometime in early 2021. Two of the team are EI licence holders, David Murphy EI9HWB & Lana Salmon EI9HXB. Further information can be found at www.eirsat1.ie

Some VHF/UHF/SHF News of note over the past year

40Mhz – A new 40Mhz Beacon in Slovenia (S55ZMS) JN86BO will TX on 40.670Mhz, CW/PI4. Dragan 9A6W from Croatia who received a 12 month permit in January 2021 for the 40Mhz band worked Tim EI4GNB on January 12th 2021 for a 9A-EI first.

70Mhz - On Dec 9th 2020 Icelandic amateurs received an early Christmas present as the renewal for the authorisation to use 70.000Mhz-70.250Mhz was successful. This pilot license is now valid out to 31/12/2022.

144Mhz - On November 26th 2020 David, HI8DL worked Diego, LW2DAF on 144.300Mhz SSB for a TEP distance of 6,102Km! then on November 29th 2020 David, HI8DL & Edgar, HI8PLE worked Walter, LU2EPO on 144.174Mhz FT8 for a TEP distance of 6,011Km!

Exiting news for St Helena, during late January the much anticipated 2m beacon finally arrived; Garry ZD7GWM has taken delivery of the beacon.

Hopefully it will be on air sometime soon during 2021. Summer time in Australia provided some interesting WSPR 144Mhz sporadic E paths, path distances been recorded, 1,302Km-1887Km. On January 14th 2021 distances of up to 2,393Km were reported!

1.2Ghz - On July 17th 2020, there was an opening between the Canary Islands and the UK & Ireland on the VHF/UHF bands. A QSO between Cesar, EA8CXN & John, EI2FG turned out to be a new

EA8CXN & John, EI2FG turned out to be a new IARU Region-1 tropo record for the 23cms microwave band (2,700Km+), congrats to both.

Currently the amateur 1,240Mhz–1,300Mhz spectrum is under threat from the Galileo radio navigation satellite in IARU Region 1. The Russian GLONASS Navigation Satellite System operates in the 1,240Mhz-1,260Mhz spectrum, the European Galileo system operates in the 1,260Mhz-1,300Mhz spectrum. Throughout 2020 the IARU has been contributing to and participating in the work of CEPT Project Team SE40 concerning the 23cm band Galileo/GLONASS coexistence topic.

Finnish International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member-society SRAL is asking for amateur radio privileges on 220Mhz – 225Mhz as a replacement for the 1240Mhz – 1300 Mhz band, which was deleted on April 24th 2020, except for use by special permit. SRAL's initial request for 902Mhz – 928Mhz was turned down. The special permits for the 1.2Ghz band will expire when the Galileo GNSS (GPS) constellation becomes fully operational.

2.4Ghz - On the 13th of December 2020, Hayden VK7HH and Richard VK7ZBX in Tasmania made a successful SSB contact with Nick ZL1IU on 2.4Ghz! for a new Australia/New Zealand Tropo record of 2,380Km!

On December 19th 2020 Joseph, 9H1CG using 100Mw and Stravros, SV1EBS using 1w had a QSO distance of 664Km on 2,320 Mhz.

122Ghz – On September 18th 2020 Steen, OZ2TG and Jorgen OZ7TA had their first QSO on 122Ghz and also first QSO using a 3D printed offset dish, distance worked was 800m. Steen was using a 21 dBi horn. The antenna is printed with 0.12 mm layer thickness and sprayed with 2 layers of EMV 35 conductive paint.

On September 28th 2020 A 52km distance was worked between VK4GU & VK4CSD using the VK3CV 122Ghz Project Platform Transverter driven by Yaesu FT817's. They were using two 350mm offset dishes, TX was FM & RX on SSB.

On October 14th 2020 Torbjørn, LB8VI and Steen, LA5GOA located in (JO29OI) had a 122GHZ QSO using FM, this was the first 122Ghz QSO in Norway. Distance might only have been 36.5 meters but this distance will be extended over the next few months.

241Ghz - February 14th saw Gert DG8EB (JO60DJ95HK) and Michael DB6NT (JO50VI49IK) extend the IARU Region 1 distance record on 241Ghz from 20km to just over 38.5Km. Gert was using a 60cm parabolic mirror with 20mW, Michael was using a 40cm dish, 599 signals were exchanged both ways. Plans for a 50km+ attempt with the DARC Club station DK0NA was postponed to a later date due to the snow situation.

Joe Fadden EI3IX

Training Courses

A new online training initiative has been running two classes on Wednesdays and Thursdays since mid-November and these classes are now in revision mode while waiting for an examination that has been delayed by the COVID pandemic. A Sunday night session is also held to deal with student queries. Revision classes for both groups will continue on Wednesday evenings at 20.00 until the date for the examination is finalised.

Our sincere thanks to the following tutors who volunteered to run the first two classes, Michael Lee EI4HF, Jim Holohan EI4HH, Stefan Zalewski EI4KU, Keith Crittenden EI5KJ, Jerry Cahill EI6BT, Simon Kenny EI7ALB, Larry McGriskin EI9CN and Dave Moore EI4BZ who co-ordinated the effort.

The classes are held on the Zoom platform and have proved very successful with only a few drop-outs from the forty seven starters.

A third class will begin on March 30th and will run twice weekly for eight weeks on Tuesday and Thursday nights leading to the HAREC Certificate examination.

There is no charge for the classes but intending participants for future classes should be IRTS members or intending members and should register at harectraining@gmail.com.

For anyone interested in studying for the HAREC examination, there is a wealth of information and study guides available on the IRTS website at www.irts.ie.

Dave Moore EI4BZ

Radio News

The Society continues a long tradition of producing a weekly news bulletin that is broadcast nationally every Sunday on 40 metres by Joe EI6EG from Dublin at 1100 and on 80 metres by Declan EI9FVB from Cork or Stefan EI5KU from County Clare at 1200.

It is also broadcast on VHF in Dublin on 145.525MHz at 1145 on Sunday mornings by Tony EI6K, Frank EI6EF and Liam EI3HK. The Mayo broadcast by Padraic EI9JA is on Sunday evenings at 2100 on the MAyo Repeater on 145.600MHz.

The Cork broadcast by Vincent EI7HN is on the Cork repeater on Mondays at 2000 and it is also broadcast in the Limerick Clare area on Mondays by Simon EI7ALB and Harry EI2KL on 433.125MHz.

On Tuesday evenings the news is broadcast on VHF & UHF on the Southern Ireland Repeater Network by Sean EI2HZB. Callers to this bulletin have increased of late and have reached 68 at the time of writing.

The current radio news editor is Dave EI4BZ and input for the bulletin can be sent to newsteam@irts.ie. The Society is very grateful to all involved in producing, broadcasting and supporting the news service.

Dave Moore EI4BZ

IRTS SHOP

IRTS Members can avail of a 10% discount on purchases from the RSGB on-line shop rsgbshop.org.

Members should select the **“NON Member’s Price”** before placing the order and then enter the IRTS Discount Code during the checkout process. At this point the discount will be applied.

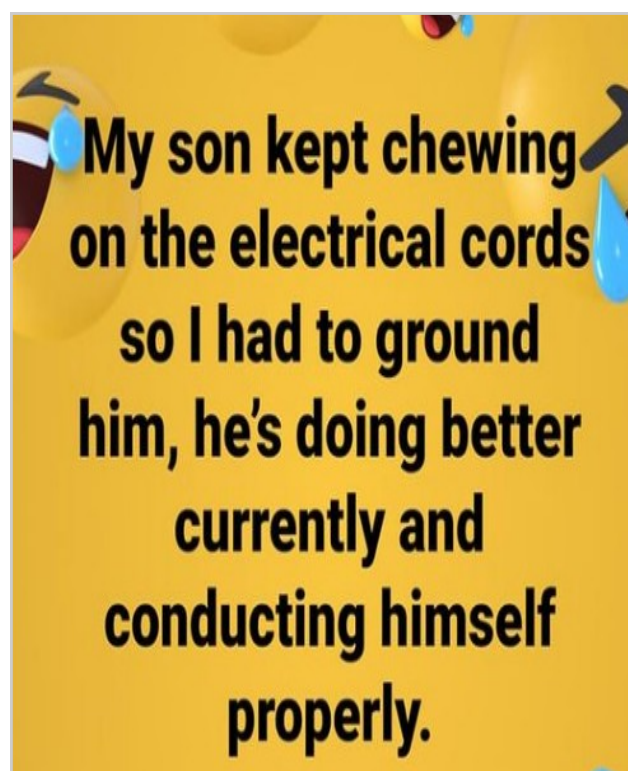
IRTS members who are also RSGB members should continue to select the **“RSGB Member’s Price”** and not use the IRTS Discount Code. The current IRTS Discount Code is **IRTS2020XWW**; this will change from time to time.

www.rsgbshop.org

Echo Ireland

Summer Copy Deadline

All items for the Summer edition of Echo Ireland
To be submitted by June 1st 2021



Contest Results

News and Reports

Jim Holohan EI4HH



80 Meters Counties Contest January 1st 2020

Section	Award	Winner
SSB Only - High Power	Lough Allen Shield	Aidan McGrath EI8CE
SSB Only - Low Power	Lough Ree Shield	Mayo Radio Experimenters Network EI0M/P
SSB/CW - High Power	Lough Derg Shield	Paul Martin EI2CA
SSB/CW - Low Power	Lough Boderg Shield	Colin Williamson GI0RQK
SWL	Lough Boffin Shield	No Entry
SSB Only - Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Paul Dumpleton M0XDX
SSB/CW - Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Colin Potter GM0DDT

80 Meters Evening Counties Contest Spring 2020

Section	Award	Winner
SSB Only	Certificate	Brian Canning EI8IU
SSB/CW	Certificate	Paul Martin EI2CA
SSB Only - Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Paul Dumpleton M0XDX
SSB/CW - Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Bill Mantovani G4ZVB
SWL	Certificate	Hannah Morgan EI1737

80 Meters Evening Counties Contest April 2020

Section	Award	Winner
SSB Only	Certificate	Robert Rantin MI0RRE
SSB/CW	Certificate	Paul Martin EI2CA
SSB Only - Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Paul Dumpleton M0XDX
SSB/CW - Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Bill Mantovani G4ZVB
SWL	Certificate	Philip Doherty EI1722

40 Meters Counties Contest May 2020

Section	Award	Winner
SSB Only - High Power	Certificate	Enda Broderick EI2II
SSB Only - Low Power	Certificate	Tony Byrne EI7JN
SSB/CW - High Power	Roseville Cup	Gerard Scannell EI5KF
SSB/CW - Low Power	Certificate	Bill Somerville-Large EI9KF
SWL	Certificate	No Entry
SSB Only - Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Mark Dumpleton G9P
SSB/CW - Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Sten Thorburn SM2R

VHF/UHF 2020

50 Mhz	SDR Trophy	John Hearne EI2FG
70 Mhz	Oriel Trophy	John Hearne EI2FG
144 Mhz	Shandon Trophy	John Hearne EI2FG
432 Mhz	Slievenamon Shield	No Award (Score too low)
1296 Mhz	Dermot Cowley EI2AK Memorial Cup	John Hearne EI2FG

70 cms Counties Contest Autumn 2020

Section	Award	Winner
SSB/FM High Power Portable	Certificate	Joe Ryan EI7GY/P
SSB/FM - Low Power Portable	Certificate	David Morgan EI7GEB/P
SSB/FM - High Power Fixed	Certificate	Albert White EI6KO
SSB/FM - Low Power Fixed	Certificate	John Kelly EI2L
FM Only - Single Operator	Certificate	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX/P
SWL	Certificate	No Entry

2 Meters Counties Contest Autumn 2020		
Section	Award	Winner
SSB/FM - High Power Portable	Certificate	Joe Ryan EI7GY/P
SSB/FM - Low Power Portable	Certificate	David Morgan EI7GEB/P
SSB/FM - High Power Fixed	Certificate	Albert White EI6KO
SSB/FM - Low Power Fixed	Certificate	John Kelly EI2L
FM Only - Single Operator	Certificate	Trevor Dunne EI2GLB Declan Horan EI9FVB/P
SWL	Certificate	No Entry
SSB/FM - High Power Fixed Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Don Kirby GW0PLP
80 Meters Evening Counties Contest Autumn 2020		
Section	Award	Winner
SSB Only - Fixed	Certificate	Robert Rantin MI0RRE
SSB/CW	Certificate	Oleg Solovyov EI7KD
SWL	Certificate	No Entry
SSB Only - Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Paul Dumpleton M0XDX
SSB/CW - Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Bill Mantovani G4ZVB
40 Meters Counties Contest October 2020		
Section	Award	Winner
SSB Only - High Power	Certificate	Pat O'Connor EI9HX
SSB Only - Low Power	Certificate	Paul Norris EI3ENB
SSB/CW - High Power	Roseville Cup	Declan Horan EI9FVB
SSB/CW - Low Power	Certificate	Bill Somerville-Large EI9FH
SWL	Certificate	No entry
SSB Only - Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Paul Dumpleton M0XDX
SSB/CW - Outside EI/GI	Certificate	Jeremy Browne G3XZG

IOTA Contest 2020		
Section	Award	Winner
Leading EI Single Operator	IRTS DX Trophy	Gerard Scannell EI5KF
Leading EI Single Operator 12 hour CW	Hal Hodgens Trophy	Axel-Joachim Kaltenborn EI8JX
Leading Island (EJ) DXpedition Station	IRTS IOTA Trophy	No Entry
CQWW DX Contest 2020		
Section	Award	Winner
Leading EI CW Single Operator	Tom Donnellan Cup	David Sherwood EI5KG
IRTS Trophies/Certificates		
Awards to EI IRTS members for Contest Results 2020		
Trophy Title	Awards	Winner
EI7IQ National 6M Shield & Certificate	Leading EI 6 Meter Station	Roger Greengrass EI8KN
EI7IQ National 4M Shield & Certificate	Leading EI 4 Meter Station	Roger Greengrass EI8KN
IRTS Trophies/Certificates		
Awards for Services to the Society or to Amateur Radio 2020		
Trophy Title	Awards	Winner
President's Cup & Certificate	This Cup is presented at the discretion of the President of the Society	Seán Byrne EI2HZB
Arup Cup & Certificate	Awarded for exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio by an Amateur who has been licensed for a period of five years or less	Ryan Morrison EI8KW
Michael Collins Memorial Trophy & Certificate	Awarded for exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio, specially in the area of training, development and/or instruction by either an individual or an affiliated club	Dave Moore EI4BZ

Pat Conway Perpetual Memorial Trophy & Certificate	Awarded for exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio by either an individual or an affiliated club	Eddie Kavanagh EI3FFB
Sheila Piper Cup & Certificate	Awarded for service by an individual to the various IRTS news media, i.e. Radio News, Echo Ireland, EiNews, Website, Social Media	Steve Wright EI5DD
Pat Maher EI3AV Perpetual Cup & Certificate	Awarded for service as the leading IRTS Regional Representative or Affiliated Club	Shannon Basin Radio Club EI2SBC
John Ash Chapman Shield & Certificate	Awarded to an individual, group or club that undertakes significant promotion of Amateur Radio to the public.	East Leinster Amateur Radio Club EI0EL

IRTS Trophies/Certificates

Awards to IRTS Members for Other Achievements 2020

Trophy Title	Awards	Winner
Foland Shield & Certificate	Awarded for Home Constructed equipment built to the highest standard	Tom Nevin EI4HCB
Kevin Freeny Trophy & Certificate	Awarded for Significant Experimentation/Innovation in any field of Amateur Radio	Darwin Penamora EI4KX
Ian Morris Memorial Trophy & Certificate	Awarded to the SWL with the highest number of DXCC Entities heard in the previous calendar year	No Nomination



Hello and welcome to extract 052 of the HX Files. In this issue are some photos of some of the Morse code keys in my collection, the project I had planned for this issue was not completed before the deadline as I was a couple of parts short, so hopefully it will be ready for the next time.

Some of the photos of the keys have been taken at a slight angle indoors with the light overhead and I was trying not to have a shadow over the keys, so apologies if they are not perfect. Like any collector I may have more than one or two of the same keys, as some are more plentiful than others.

Not all are from the various armies of the war; some are pre and post war commercial ones used in telegraphic offices.

Also, some keys seem to have just enough parts to function and a few of them have grooves cut into the underside of their base to accommodate the hard wire from one part to another. The ongoing collection has taken a few years to get to where it is, some of the keys have been bought at overseas rallies but quite a lot were bought at the home rallies.

Regarding the price of the keys, it has been a couple of years since I bought any, but the common ones have cost around €20. Having said that, I have seen some of the keys vary quite a lot in price depending on their abundance or rarity in various countries. I have paid good money at one rally only to see the same key for sale a lot cheaper at another rally. By the way, I bought the cheaper one as well because you just never know! There are many people on line in Blogs with their own collections and these offer a great help when identifying a key. There a couple of collectors guide books available to give you help when pricing a Morse key. So, if you are hunting on some of the auction sites you can evaluate the sellers asking price.

I will just say a few words about the various keys featured and, if you wish, you can have a proper look on the web. So as they say, in no particular order.

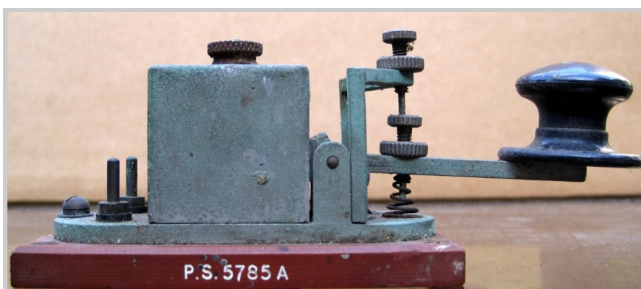


Photo 1 is of a Marconi Air Ministry Morse key

An air Ministry key model AM 10F/94, used by the RAF c1930's. The overall length including the arm in old money is 5.1/2" by 1.5/8ths wide (140mm by

42mm in euro). Stamped on the base is the Marconi type ID "PS 5785A".



Photo 2, still in its, box is a WT 8 AMP key

The WT-8A keys were made in over 100 versions in six countries and in huge quantities. Dating from the 1920's they were used by the British armed forces with most of their communications gear throughout the emergency (WW2).



Photo 3 is of a J-45 clip-on the leg key

This key was clipped onto the wireless operator's leg. The key was used in aircraft and various other military vehicles.



Photo 4 a Bath tub key from the British Royal Air Force

Bombers were outfitted with the "bath tub" key. The mechanism is inside the housing, which is held shut by the wire clamp in front. The key is designed to turn the plane's radio into a beacon if the aircraft went down. The operator moved the wire clamp up over the bottom lip of the key's knob. This held the key down to

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send a continuous signal that rescuers could home in on. A rubber gasket around the base of the knob kept water out if the plane had to ditch.

Photo 5 is of an RAF Switch Box Identification Type B 5c/372 key



This key was fitted on the Spitfire Fighter Aircraft and also onto some other aircraft. It was used to use the aircraft's lights to send signals to ground crew in case any nearby enemy were earwiggling.

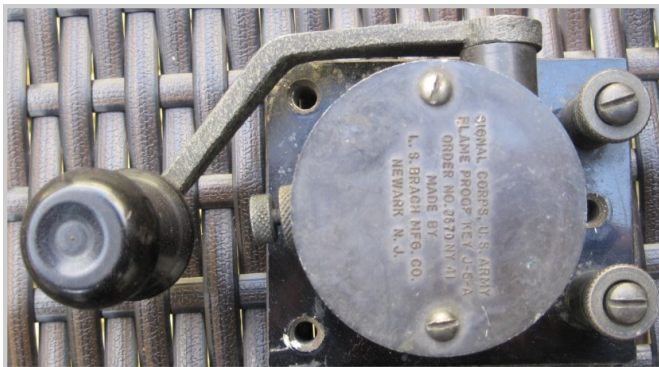
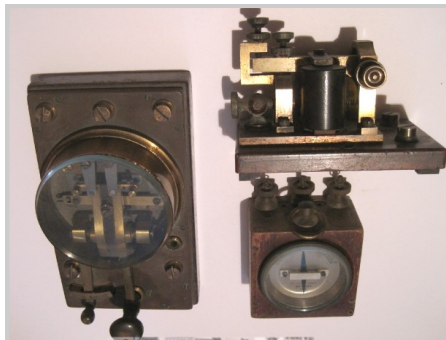
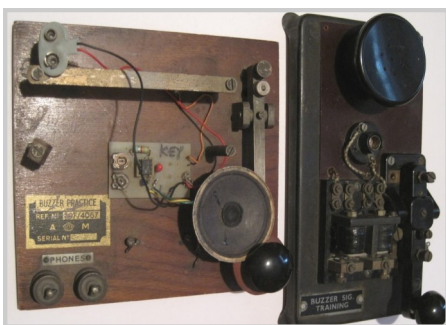


Photo 6 is of a flameproof key.



J-5 and J-5A These keys were in large quantities from 1918 to 1945. The contacts are totally enclosed to allow them to be used in explosive environments without the danger of the contact sparks causing an explosion to the fuel and ammunition on board the aircraft.



Photo 7 shows a key from a spy set

Just under it is a 9 volt battery for a size comparison, and the larger key is a G.P.O. one.

That is it for this issue of the HX Files, hopefully normal service will have returned for the next time.

Best 73 Pat.





Hi Folks and welcome to my last HF Happenings / General Radio Chit Chat.

I hope all is as good as it can be with all the readers and their families. I find that the radio is a great distraction from the current climate and with many people working from home around the planet it has brought some nice unexpected DX.

Unfortunately the scientific numbers have dropped in the last few months so conditions nothing to get too excited by. I personally have reverted back to more CW and the odd SSB ragchew with US stations. I visited the Delaware Amateur Radio Club on my last trip Stateside and since then have had many contacts on all modes with them. I was met with incredible hospitality by our USA radio brothers and keep an keen ear out for the club members on air.

Conditions in late November and early December were phenomenal. VK/Asia open every morning on 12 and 10m both CW and FT8. This is when FT8 got really boring. Point, click and hey presto. The only benefit to FT8 was working VK/Asia on 30 watts.

Got up at 02:00z one early December morning as I needed LU7EHR/4 on SA-055 Martín García Island for a new one. I guessed 40m would be workable so before long I found logged them on 40m FT8. No sign of CW or SSB. The Island itself has just 1.84 km² of surface. It is located 46 km. from Buenos Aires, 33.5 km from the Port of Tigre and 4 km from the Uruguayan coast. It seems like an unknown land, but within its limits it houses a fundamental piece of Argentine history. Martín García Island came to host some of the most important politicians in Argentina. The island, a rocky group belonging to the Brasilia massif from the Precambrian age, stands out from a distance due to its intense green colour. It is close to the lighthouse and its highest point is 27 m. above sea level. Its flora and fauna, similar to that of the missionary jungle, are accompanied by a temperate and humid climate with a tendency to warm.

In 1516, the explorer Juan Díaz de Solís navigated the waters of the Río de la Plata for the first time in search of new horizons and that is what happened. During the trip, the expedition's butler died and the Spanish decided to find a place to give him a Christian burial. In addition to fulfilling his duty as a Good Samaritan, he baptized the island with the name of that crew member: Martín García.

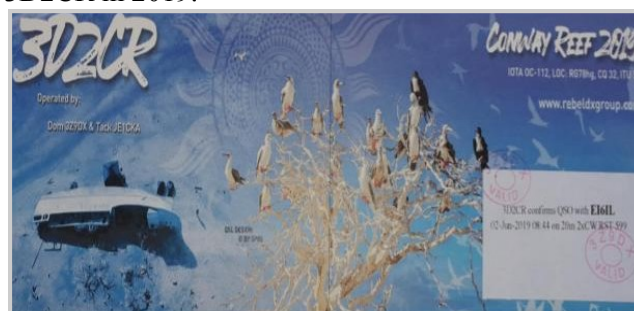
For a time, it was the place where the most dangerous prisoners in the city of Buenos Aires and Montevideo went. Then it would acquire a key weight in Argentine socio-political history: it was one of the sites chosen to keep political leaders incommunicado.

Hipólito Yrigoyen, Marcelo T. de Alvear, Arturo Frondizi and none other than Juan Domingo Perón were some of the politicians who were imprisoned on the island. The Río de la Plata commission, the civic center and the current Juan Díaz de Solís school functioned at the time as detention facilities.

The Ionosphere started to cool down somewhat with the SFI dropping to sub 100's again. New Caledonia FK coming in on the Longpath around S9 and favouring French speakers.

Declan EI6FR and John EI3ISB got released from home prison and mounted a mini Sota DXpedition to the summit of the baby Sugarloaf. Worked 6FR on 20/30/40m CW on his trustworthy FT817 and worked John on 7.117.5 SSB. It was a Baltic morning so can only imagine the hilltop.

I got a nice QSL card recently from the Rebels acknowledging a 20m CW QSO with Conway Reef 3D2CR in 2019.



The Greyline on 80m was generous during the winter bringing in West Coast USA and as far East as JA. Worked RW0CF in grid PN78 which is a good spin from EI.

Alex HC2AO born in Russia and living in Ecuador for many years gave me a call so exchanged a report. He is a very active operator but tells me by email that he suffers terribly with local QRN and hasn't the best of ears for the low bands. He is persistent and I now have him from 160-12m on CW and FT8.

Shifted up to 20m i.e. the band that never sleeps lately and caught FK8CE on his CQ. Exchanged reports and worked a few JA's as they inundated the screen.

Morning greyline brought me HI3T on 80m. All the usuals were knocking about but quickly responded to RA0FF on Shakhalin Island IARU Locator QN16. Eugene has an interesting antenna farm which includes homebrew WireSpear 5 element bi-directional antenna's for the low bands.

USA West Coast were back on 80m working a few down around Oregon and Northern California. Worked K7CAR who has an interesting QRZ page with some nice photo's. Unfortunately when you call

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nowadays a lot of EU bombard you. Lowered my power to 5 watts and got a +15 report from MX1SWL/A. I had to increase my power to 20 watts to work W8MAL in Ohio. 20 to 30 watts works just fine into the East Coast and midlands. I had to put a little more coal on the fire to work YV5DRN as some SA City Slickers suffer terribly from QRN and can't hear well.

The SFI took a dramatic dive back to around the 80 mark during mid December so the bands just not as good.

Early morning on the greyline brought the West Coast to JA on 80m with an SFI of 80 and a K index of 0.

Pleasantly surprised to log New Caledonia on 30m CW at 10:46 local time. He works simplex so it was a mad few minute's listening for my call thru all the hysteria.

A relatively quiet Xmas dipping in and out of the bands and eating non stop.

Hunted JD1BMH on 30m FT8 but no joy. Caught up with Harry JD1BMH on 7.037mhz CW at 13:00z.

40m hopping lately on all modes all times of the day and night. China, USA and Far East all on at the same time on 40m FT8.

Had a look at 60m and saw N6PE in California, tried for ages to get a signal in his door but no joy due to low power restrictions in EI.

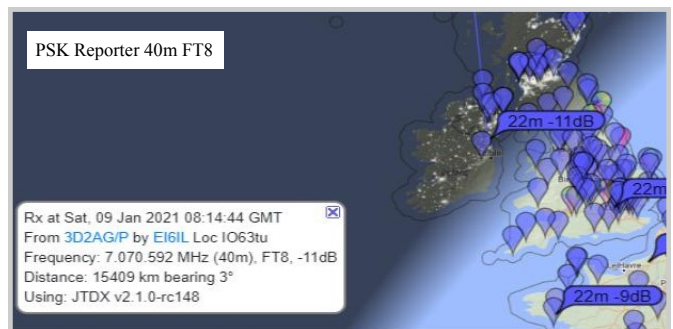
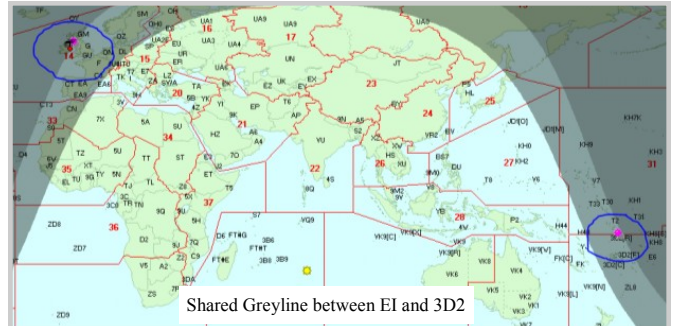
Skimmed across 20m at midnight in early Jan to find W7PEZ on the West Coast USA (Washington State) CQ'ing on FT8. Not another solitary signal to be seen or heard on 20m. He was a happy bunny working the JA callbook. I checked PSK Reporter and could clearly see his signal was very strong across most parts of the globe which indicated he was using an omnidirectional antenna. I emailed him to let him know he was the only station I could receive at that time.

Sometimes the 80m Greyline brought wall to wall JA which is not needed in my QTH. Work one JA and its fish in a barrel. Took a look at 30m as the sun was coming up and heard JG8NQJ/JD1 from Minami Toishima, went hell for leather on this one as it was a potential newbie on 30m. I gave it up after about half an hour as some station was jamming the QRG. Very disappointing behaviour but sure that's the way the cookie crumbles.

I was on the lookout for RI01ANT from Vostok Antarctic Base and landed him at 19:15z on 40m FT8.

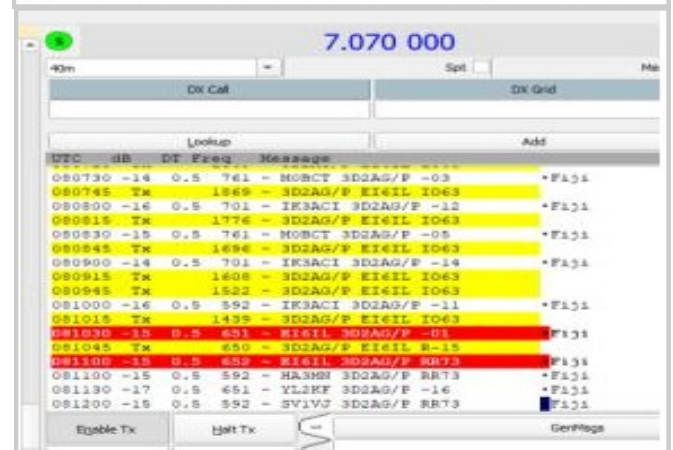
Antoine 3D2AG was back on Rotuma Island. He called his trip The Rehanisi Memorial DXpedition after the tragic loss of his 11 year old child last year while on DXpedition to the Island. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam.

On a major hunt for 3D2AG/P on Rotuma Island Fiji for many days but no avail. Finally nailed him on 7.070 Fox & Hound at 07:04z. Got a -01 report from him and best I saw was -06 on the longpath. We shared a portion of the greyline so that was the beneficial factor is getting him in the log. I generally use a few DX aids while on the hunt such as the invaluable DXAtlas and PSK reporter.



JTDX by HF community v2.1.0-rc148, derivative work based on WSJT-X by K1JT

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message	Band Activity
080615	-1	0.1	1465	3D2AG/P YL2KF IO27	*Latvia
080615	4	0.2	1410	3D2AG/P YO8BSE KH36	*Romania
080615	-5	0.0	1556	3D2AG/P MO8CT JO02	*England
080615	-4	0.0	1765	3D2AG/P SV1VJF KH17	*Greece
080630	-14	0.5	761	OI1UTE 3D2AG/P +00	*Fiji
080630	-14	0.5	701	IK3ACI 3D2AG/P -11	*Fiji
080700	-14	0.5	701	IK3ACI 3D2AG/P -13	*Fiji
080700	-12	0.5	760	OI1UTE 3D2AG/P +00	*Fiji
080730	-14	0.5	761	MO8CT 3D2AG/P -03	*Fiji
080730	-15	0.5	701	IK3ACI 3D2AG/P -12	*Fiji
080800	-16	0.5	701	IK3ACI 3D2AG/P -12	*Fiji
080800	-15	0.5	760	MO8CT 3D2AG/P -03	*Fiji
080830	-15	0.5	761	MO8CT 3D2AG/P -05	*Fiji
080830	-15	0.5	701	IK3ACI 3D2AG/P -12	*Fiji
080900	-14	0.5	701	IK3ACI 3D2AG/P -14	*Fiji
080900	-14	0.5	760	MO8CT 3D2AG/P -01	*Fiji
080930	-14	0.5	652	MO8CT 3D2AG/P -01	*Fiji
080930	-15	0.5	592	IK3ACI 3D2AG/P -11	*Fiji
081000	-16	0.5	592	IK3ACI 3D2AG/P -11	*Fiji
081000	-15	0.5	652	MO8CT 3D2AG/P -01	*Fiji
081030	-15	0.5	651	RI6EL 3D2AG/P -01	*Fiji
081030	-14	0.5	591	HA3MH 3D2AG/P B-15	*Fiji
081100	-15	0.5	652	RI6EL 3D2AG/P RR73	*Fiji
081100	-15	0.5	592	HA3MH 3D2AG/P RR73	*Fiji
081115	1	0.1	1733	3D2AG/P HA3MH 73	*Hungary
081115	0	2.1	893	3D2AG/P SV1VJF KH17	*Greece
081115	4	0.2	1861	3D2AG/P YO8BSE KH36	*Romania
081115	-5	0.0	1766	3D2AG/P SV1VJF KH17	*Greece
081130	-17	0.5	651	YL2KF 3D2AG/P -16	*Fiji



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Declan EI6FR pulled off an 80m miracle by working Warwick E51WL on the North Cook Islands on FT8. His timing was perfect, right on the greyline at 08:30z when EU were enjoying their continental breakfasts the Paddies were having a few rasher sandbo's to celebrate this contact from a capital city garden. Declan used his shortened 80m dipole over the Inv L for this contact.

E51WL Warwick reports that he repaired his Acom amplifier with the help of remote assistance from Acom Europe and is "excited" working EU.

The Cook Islands are quirky and it's a fact that no building is allowed to be taller than a Coconut tree. Not sure of antenna restrictions. There is no such thing as a 'high rise' in this island nation and the locals like it that way. It is also reported that it's one of the only countries in the world that you are encouraged to smile in your drivers licence.

Our friend Tom KC0W has been quite active lately and to my surprise has adopted FT8. I logged him on 20m FT8 at 09:00z with most of EU on the hunt for him. He still puzzles the DX by popping up with a CQ and maybe only works one station.

The South Korean boys are knocking about 80m on 3.547 mhz and quite workable.

Logged a few Caledonian stations on CW/SSB and FT8 during our morning time on 20m LP.

T6AA is keeping the Afghanistan on the map and has an excellent CW ear. He is well able to pick out the weaker stations to his credit.

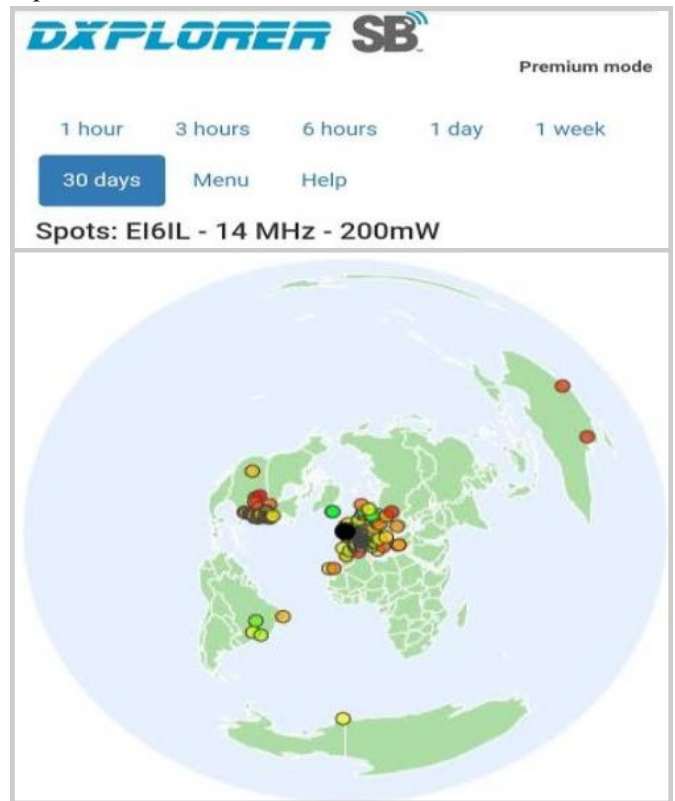
I spent just over an hour and eventually logged 3W1T is Vietnam with 15 watts on 60m FT8.

JX2US is putting out a great signal lately on the lower bands and delighted to work him on 160m CW. Also logged TT8SN in Chad on 160m CW for a new country which doesn't come my way too often. 178 DXCC's on Topband now and have my sights on 200. I will have to improve my TX antenna so that's a Summer project.

The following screen capture is how myself and ZL4OL used standard FT8 to communicate more than a quick report.

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
002800	-24	0.7	1490	GOBNR CX70V -20
084445	-7	0.2	804	CQ ZL4OL RE54 New Zealand
084515	-9	0.2	804	NEW ANT INTER
084531	Tx	1067		ZL4OL EI6IL -07
084545	-10	0.2	804	EI6IL ZL4OL R+01
084600	Tx	1067		ZL4OL EI6IL RR73
084615	-7	0.2	804	EI6IL ZL4OL 73
084645	-9	0.2	805	MX DON 73
084710	Tx	1067		VERY WELCOME
084715	-10	0.2	805	CQ ZL4OL RE54 New Zealand
084730	Tx	1067		MERRY X 73
084745	-8	0.2	804	I HV EI PSPOR
084809	Tx	1067		TU
084815	-8	0.2	805	PASSPORT HI
084845	-8	0.2	805	73 HENRY
084900	Tx	1067		FOGGY DAY EI
084915	-8	0.3	804	CQ ZL4OL RE54 New Zealand
084945	-8	-0.1	804	COOLISH HR
085015	-9	-0.0	804	IN GARDEN THO

The following screen capture is my WSPRlite used with an End Fed Half Wave (EFHW) antenna located in the back garden. Another interesting antenna experiment with my signal being received all over the planet. This antenna is very easy to deploy for /P operations.



On another radio note I took an interest in the reception of Aircraft ADB 1090 Mhz transmissions. I home brewed a simple Colinear antenna and am now receiving aircraft 250 miles+ from my home QTH. I am now looking to improve the range so gathering up scrap Aluminium to construct a 1090 mhz high gain directional antenna.

The following information is found on many websites and just an insight into the future activity on the bands. Needless to say if interested in HF DX then its very helpful to keep oneself up to date with the many excellent DX websites. The following are a few extracts of interest from the web.

UK – Uzbekistan: EA1CS reports UK9AA, Fedor, and other Uzbek Amateur Radio operators will class 1 licenses have gained authorization to operate on 60 meters on a secondary basis per WRC-15. UK stations can operate with up to 100 watts in the 5351.5 to 5366.5 KHz range. Fedor had previously received authorization to operate 5 MHz back in 2015 and believes he was the first to do so from the CIS.

ZD8 – Ascension Island: During the ARRL DX SSB Contest, March 6-7, ZD8HZ (TA1HZ), Tevfik, will be QRV. He also plans to be in the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest, March 27-28.

4U_UN - United Nations Headquarters: United Nations Radio Club President K2QI, James, reports that they are currently experiencing technical issues

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with the SteppIR antenna. Once we have that resolved, the 4U1UN station should be back on the air”.

JW: Svalbard, LB5SH, Stian, plans to be QRV in the CQ WPX SSB Contest from the JW5E club station in Longyearbyen, Svalbard. He arrives on March 25th. Outside the contest he will be operating as JW/LB5SH, mostly on SSB with some FT8. In the CQ WPX SSB Contest he will be operating with his club call JW2T. Activity is expected to end on March 28th.

MWICFN: John, will be QRV with special call GB1004FTS celebrating the centenary of formation of No. 4 Flying Training School RAF from March 25 to April 21. He will be QRV from Anglesey (EU-124), Wales using an FT450-D (HF) and IC746 (2m) running 25 watts on digital and 100 watts on SSB.

Polar Trip: DC8TM, Thomas, and DF3TS, Martina, have postponed their 2021 trip up north until April 2022. They are now planning to be QRV from JW – Svalbard from April 10-13, then from the drift ice camp (DP0LE and RA/DC8TM/p) from April 14-17 and then finally for about 30 minutes from the North Pole using calls DP0LE and DC8TM/p. Exact date and time for that activity has not been determined.

ZS7 – Antarctica: ZS7ANF, operator Oleg, is at “Wolf’s Fang Runway.” He is on most days, 10115 CW. This is a long airstrip on the ice. Soon, Oleg plans to be on the air from a second site, the “Whichaway Oasis Camp.”

XU – Cambodia: XU7AKU by JA1DFK, Tad, is active, usually CW with wire antennas up 25 meters and an Outback 2000 80-6M mobile-type antenna. He has a new full quarter-wave 80M inverted vertical and made 50 DX QSOs the first night with it. QRN in the city make it tough to copy. Some of Tad’s other call signs are XU7AKV and KH7J. He is a member of the Nippon DX Association. Some of his gear is an FT-840 and an FT-857.

VK9C – Cocos (Keeling): (the following was posted on QRZ.com VK9CE listing) Ten members of the Northern Corridor Radio Group are planning an activation of Cocos Keeling Islands - VK9C between March 16th and 23rd 2021. The operation is vacation style although having said that, with 10 of us on the team, we expect to be quite active, but possibly not 24/7. We also hope to have involvement of the sole resident amateur on Cocos and we would like also to get him set up on HF while we are there.

KH4 MIDWAY ISL: Ron, KH6DV announces a trip to Midway during September 2021 for about 2 weeks (if the COVID 19 is under control). Midway Atoll is #14 on the Clublog most wanted list and has not been active for some time. The aircraft used for the logistics flights has been downsized and visitors are no longer

allowed to fly to the island. Operators interested in joining the expedition should be prepared to undertake a 6.75 day ocean voyage. The vessel DXpedition veteran A/S Machias can be seen on my QRZ page KH6DV. The vessel will provide all power (2 x 27KW generators and air-conditioned sleeping, operating and galley areas.)

SOUTH AMERICA: SA-092 Papegaaen Isl Markus, DJ4EL informs DX-World that he has new dates for his IOTA DXpedition to Papegaaen Island as PZ5G. He hopes to be QRV from this rare IOTA during April 2-5. Activity on 80-10m using CW and SSB. -PZ5G grid GJ15kv (10-80 meter CW and SSB) -PZ5GE grid GJ25kr (10-40 meter using SSB only) More on QRZ.com.

Extracts from my own logbook over the last few weeks.....

MX1SWL/A	AC4VM	HB9DGV/P	JH0LQD	E25KAE		VK2DX
AB4EJ	AC2BI	RI01ANT	HL2VA	EASM		4F3BZ
YV5DRN	9J2BS	3D2AG/P	JH6ETS	CT2IQK/P		DU6/PE1NSQ
EI0YOTA	N3XX	EI3ISB/P	DL6BAD	SQ0MORSE		
W6RKC	ZB2GI	F5ODQ/P	DP0POL/MM	HL4SF		
J73ESL	3W1T	JT1CO	HB9DGV/P	JT1CO		
ZA/IK2RLM	859J	YI9WS	S51RU/P	HL2WA		
ZL2BX		VP8LP	SQ0MORSE	OG60IPA		
3W1T			OG60IPA	SQ0MORSE		
TF5B			HB9DGV/P	AP2SD		
UA0AV			RY0UWC	S57RT		
DS2JV			HB9DGV/P	RA1ZZ/P		
JR7AMZ			JX2US	EI3ISB/P		
KL7NW			Z57ANF	BH1MQA		
JG1ULJ			HB9DGV/P	KH0/KCOW		
J14JKO			VK6EI	KH6/NA2U		
JE6KYA			456NCH	K8RI		
PU2UAF			H1BRMQ	W57X		
JX2US			VE3YXO	FK8HM		
DS5TOS			HB9DGV/P	T6AA		
HL4CJG				457AB		
SQ0MORSE				W0GJ		
ZL3JT				VE9FI		
YE6YE				YB1RKT		
TI2CC						
ZA/IN3PPH						
H13AA						
ES6DO						

In summary radio propagation was down most of last year. There were over 210 days with zero sunspots through October. Typical solar flux during the first part of the year was 70-75 with a few small deviations until late October when solar flux abruptly soared to 88. Solar flux moving above 80 is a good indicator of improving DX on the upper HF bands. In late November the solar flux rose to 113. The increase greatly improved radio propagation especially during the CQ DX SSB and CW Contests. Atmospheric Research is predicting solar cycle 25 to be one of the best and will peak around 2025.

So folks that’s where I leave it for a while. I wish you and your family’s all the very best. I hope to hear more and more EI’s on the bands. Remember the hobby is so vast that there is plenty of room on the Radio Spectrum for everyone and don’t forget to lend a hand to prospective or newly licensed Experimenters.

All the best,

73 de EI6I

Regular Features

February					
2021 Feb15	2021 Feb28	Wake I	KH9 [spots]	AL7JX	TDDX 20210118
2021 Feb18	2021 Feb28	Mozambique	C91BVA [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20210201
ARRL International DX Contest, CW (Feb 20-21, 2021) Check here for percontest activity too.					
2021 Feb20	2021 Mar05	Cayman Is	ZF2BJ [spots]	LoTW	DXWNet 20210126
2021 Feb26	2021 Apr02	Wake I	KH9 [spots]	LoTW	TDDX 20210212
2021 Feb27	2021 Feb28	Dominican Republic	HI2IDT [spots] <small>NEW</small>	LoTW	DXNews 20210227
2021 Feb27	2021 Mar27	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA [spots]	LoTW	DXWNet 20200612
March					
ARRL International DX Contest, Phone (Mar 6-7, 2021)					
2021 Mar10	2021 Mar31	Minami Torishima	JD1	JASCTY Direct	TDDX 20210216
2021 Mar04	2021 Mar23	Curacao	PJ2	LoTW	DK5ON 20210131
2021 Mar16	2021 Mar23	Cocos Keeling	VK9CE	LoTW	DXWNet 20210215
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB (Mar 27-28, 2021)					
April					
2021 Apr26	2021 May09	Svalbard	JW6VDA [spots] <small>NEW</small>	LoTW	DXNews 20210223
2021 Apr28	2021 May24	Botswana	A25VR	VE7VR	TDDX 20200130
May					
2021 May01	2021 May07	Ogasawara	JD1BQA	JH3QFL Direct	DXWNet 20210129
June					
2021 Jun12	2021 Jul10	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	LoTW	W5JON 20201222
2021 Jun22	2021 Jun28	St Eustatius	PJ5	LoTW	W5JON 20201222
2021 Jun29	2021 Jul13	St Pierre & Miquelon	FP	LoTW	DXWNet 20191126

July					
2021 Jul07	2021 Jul14	Aruba	P4	ND7J	ND7J 20190722
2021 Jul23	2021 Aug03	St Vincent	J8SPI	GW4DVB Direct	DXWNet 20200727
August					
2021 Aug01	2021 Aug30	Dominican Republic	HI9	eQSL	TDDX 20200206
2021 Aug08	2021 Aug16	St Pierre & Miquelon	TO5T	LoTW	DXNews 20200804
September					
2021 Sep20	2021 Sep30	Tanzania	5H1IP [spots] <small>NEW</small>	ClubLog OQRS	DXNews 20210227
CQ WW DX Contest, RTTY (Sep 25-26, 2021)					
2021 Sep29	2021 Oct13	Maldives	8Q7CQ	M0OXO	DXWNet 20201025
October					
2021 Oct01	2021 Oct30	Sable I	CY0C	TBA	DXWNet 20200718
2021 Oct01	2021 Oct30	Mellish Reef	VK9HR	TBD	TDDX 20210128
2021 Oct16	2021 Nov12	St Kitts & Nevis	V47JA	LoTW	W5JON 20201209
2021 Oct25	2021 Nov01	St Eustatius	PJ5	LoTW	W5JON 20201209
CQ WW DX Contest, SSB (Oct 30-31, 2021)					
November					
2021 Nov03	2021 Nov13	Willis I	VK9W	TBD	DXWNet 20210215

HF Happenings Columnist

Echo Ireland is urgently looking for a new HF Happenings Columnist.

Don Brennan EI6IL has decided to step down after a number of years contributing voluminous quantities of excellent material. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to him for all his contributions to Echo Ireland over the years. Don's articles have been a source of interesting material for all our readers.

HF Happenings forms a major section of Echo Ireland and its continuation is of vital importance, both to the publication and to the membership.

If you are in a position to take on the position please contact:

Jim Holohan EI4HH

email: holohaj2@hotmail.com

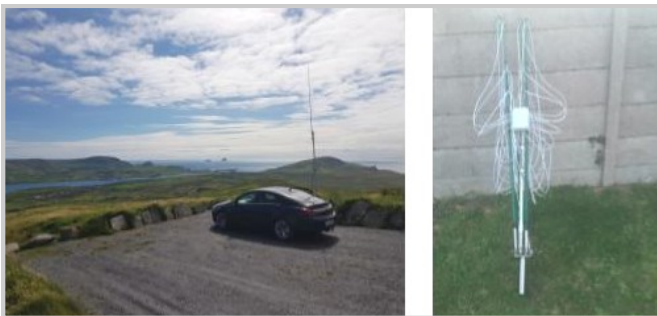
Mobile: 0864071185



Kerry Amateur Radio Group (KARG) was formally established in 2003, by a group of like-minded radio amateurs. The mission was to promote activity within Kerry, through participation in public and IRTS events, as well as commemorating historic events that occurred within the county. County Kerry has a long history in world communications, having had cable stations in Valentia (1866), Ballinskelligs (1874) and Waterville (1884). A project is currently underway to attain UNESCO World Heritage status for the area, as a place of significance in world communications.

Prior to 2003, a number of amateurs were active over the years as Kerry Radio Group (KRG), and participated in International Marconi Day events from Ballybunion. Much of the credit goes to John Carroll EI6AH (now SK), for organising these events.

Since 2003, KARG has been very active in participating in the various IRTS contests and VHF/UHF field days. KARG have been successful on several occasions in these contests. We have also run club field days, as well as participating in public events, such as vintage rallies and international events. KARG club meetings are held monthly, and allow members to catch up on recent HF activity, as well as giving presentations on individual member projects, or other topics of interest.



Members are also active in construction projects, such as satellite communications, moon bounce, antenna building and portable station deployment.

KARG actively promotes Amateur Radio, through their participation in local events and published articles in the local media. This has led to more awareness of the club, and has resulted in new members. KARG have also been featured on the RTE Radio 1 programme Seascapes on a number of occasions, and have also had an interview from Valentia Lighthouse for the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend, broadcast on the programme. We currently have some junior ops that are looking forward to participating in the online HAREC training course run by IRTS, with a view to becoming licensed.

KARG maintain a 70cm repeater, EI7MGR, located at Mullaghanish (IO51kx), which has really good

coverage over the Munster region. Output frequency is 430.975 MHz, and input frequency is 438.575 MHz, with 103.5 Hz tone access.

KARG participates in a number of events throughout the year, however, the three main highlights of the KARG calendar are International Marconi Day, the Valentia Transatlantic Cable Event and the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend.

International Marconi Day (IMD)

KARG are fortunate to have permission to use Colaiste Bhreanainn in Ballybunion, built on the site of the former Marconi Radio Station, to operate as EI6YXQ in the IMD event. This is the first major outing for the club every year and is very well supported, not alone by KARG members, but also by local organisations, such as the Irish Coastguard, Sea and Cliff Rescue and the Fire Service.

In March 2019, KARG collaborated with the local Development Group, to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the first East to West transatlantic telephony communication, between Ballybunion and Louisbourg, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. KARG were QRV as EI100YXQ for this special event, and provided a HF linkup on 20M with the Sydney Amateur Radio Club (SARC) in Nova Scotia, to re-enact the original transmission from Ballybunion to Cape Breton.

Princess Elettra, the daughter of Marconi, was on microphone to transmit the message, "Hello Canada, Hello Canada - This is the Marconi valve transmitter station at Ballybunion Ireland - Calling on a wavelength of thirty-eight hundred metres - Can you hear me? - Please report signals". Nova Scotia, using the call VA1VAS replied, "Ballybunion station, this is Nova Scotia. We hear you loud and clear".

This event exceeded all expectations, and was attended by Princess Elettra Marconi Giovanelli, her son Prince Guglielmo Marconi and his wife Princess Victoria, who had all travelled to Ballybunion especially for the event. Other attendees included local dignitaries and members of other Radio Clubs, including Limerick, Clare, Cork, Tipperary, Galway and Mayo. More information and videos of this event, which gained local and national media coverage, are available on the EI100YXQ QRZ.com page.



Features

Valentia Transatlantic Cable Event

Since participating in the 2016 event, to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the first successful Transatlantic Cable between Valentia and Hearts Content, Newfoundland, KARG has established strong friendships with both the Valentia Cable station, and the VO1TAC team at Hearts Content Cable station. This friendship is renewed annually in celebrating the event at both ends of the cable. On the EI end, collaboration between KARG, the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and Valentia Development Group, has led to a linkup on SSB, and an annual re-enactment of transmitting the original message sent via CW, between both ends. The first message sent on this final successful cable was: "A treaty of peace has been signed between Austria and Prussia". Queen Victoria, then at Osborne, in the Isle of Wight, sent a message to the President of the United States. "The Queen congratulates the President on the successful completion of an undertaking, which she hopes may serve as an additional bond of Union between the United States and England."

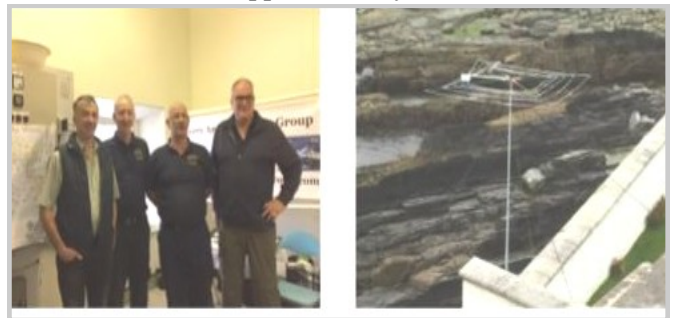
The event, which has received local and national media coverage, is open to the public, and is well attended every year. Further information on <http://www.valentiaisland.ie/explore-valentia/valentia-transatlantic-cable-station/>



International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend

KARG have been participating in this event, from Cromwell Point Lighthouse on Valentia Island, every year since we were formed. As this is such a scenic location, it remains the most anticipated of our annual outings, and provides an escape from the outside world for a weekend. KARG members stay over for the entire weekend, and enjoy campfire cooking and each other's company, making it a very enjoyable weekend. Adding to the enjoyment is a trip to our friends at the local MRSC Valentia station. Having begun as a closed event, this event has grown over the years, becoming an open event when the Valentia Development Group took over responsibility, and began offering guided tours of the lighthouse compound to the public.

KARG usually run several stations at this event, sometimes up to four stations simultaneously, on different bands and modes. Callsigns used are EI0CPL and EI1K. Antennas consist of a Hexbeam, cobwebb, delta loops, dipoles and verticals. At least one station is on display to the public, and it usually generates a lot of interest from visitors from all corners of the world, some of whom are radio amateurs. KARG are fortunate to have some multilingual members within the team, which is appreciated by the visitors.



Since the COVID-19 pandemic, all events and physical meetings have been cancelled, but KARG have been holding weekly meetings on the Microsoft TEAMS platform to keep members engaged. These weekly meetings have made it easy for our members to stay in touch and discuss their ongoing projects. In addition, they have been a source of help for existing members to improve their stations, and a great forum for encouraging new members to the hobby. While KARG have not been as active as we would have liked to have been over the last year, due to the pandemic, we look forward to resuming our activities and calendar of events when it is safe to do so.

For more information on Kerry Amateur Radio Group, please see our Facebook page, as well as the following QRZ pages – EI1KARG, EI1K, EI6YXQ, EI100YXQ and EI0CPL



The 1916 Easter Insurrection Wireless Broadcast

Features

Michael Kirwan EI3KO



The news of the 1916 Easter Rebellion was broadcast by Morse code from the premises of the Irish School of Wireless on Tuesday 25th April 1916 - the day after the Easter Rising commenced.

Early in 1914 the Irish rebels took wireless telegraphy classes at the Hardwicke Street Hall in Dublin. Lieutenant General Michael Brennan attended classes there every night and his radio studies were used in the teaching of signalling to various Fianna classes.

Morse code was used in the Post Offices throughout Ireland for sending and receiving telegrams between the main towns.

Monday 24th April 1916. Easter Monday



Sackville Street. Courtesy: National Library of Ireland.

On Easter Monday the Rebellion commenced around noon. Key locations around Dublin city were attacked including the General Post Office (G.P.O.). About 350 rebels marched up Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) and stormed the building forcing terrified staff to flee. Two flags were raised on the top of the building - the tri-colour and the green and gold "Irish Republic" flag. Proclamation of an Irish Republic was read out to onlookers. The rebels disabled all communications in and out of the building including cross channel lines. Samuel Guthrie a superintendent in the G.P.O recalled¹:

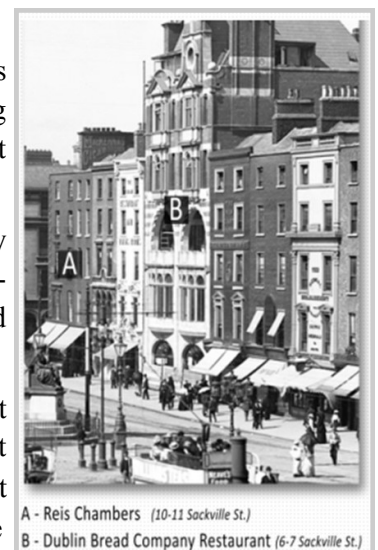
"I at once got Mr P. Kelly to phone to headquarters of the Army Command, the Police Office in the Castle and to Marlboro' Barracks asking for assistance" (British Post and Museum Records, (BPMA) London.)

In the G.P.O. the lower windows were smashed, and at once occupied by men with loaded rifles. Barricades were thrown up, the staff taken hostage but subsequently released in batches of ten. Once Samuel Guthrie was evicted from the G.P.O he made his way to Amiens Street railway station (.8 km away). When the G.P.O. was taken over by the volunteers, all telephonic and telegraphic connections with the G.P.O. were cut off. However, the telegraphic office at Amiens Street Railway Station was controlled and staffed by Post Office authorities, and although there was no connection with the G.P.O., the supervisor knew that the cable to Great Britain passed from the G.P.O in O'Connell Street through the telegraph office at Amiens Street Station to Howth, and thence across the Irish Sea to Wales. The supervisor was then able to assemble a staff of telegraph clerks and established a telegraph service between Amiens Street station and London. They also had a private telephone line direct from that office to G.H.Q. Parkgate, Dublin.²

One of the last of the officials to leave the G.P.O. was a telegraphist named Miss Katherine Gordon. When the rebels entered the instrument room she was sending a private telegram. She was ordered at the point of a revolver to cease work, but she did not rise from her seat until she had finished it.³

In the G.P.O, Joe Plunkett later in the day gave instructions to Fergus O'Kelly who was attached to the Signalling Company to take a few men and take possession of the Irish School of Wireless overhead Reis's jewellery shop across the road and do everything possible to get the transmitter and receiver in working order.⁴

The Irish School of Wireless was established in March 1913. When it opened it was originally called the Northern Wireless School of Dublin and Manchester as it was a branch of the school in Manchester. The principal was Mr Philip Turner. It was located on the 4th floor of the Reis Building on the junction between Sackville



A - Reis Chambers (10-11 Sackville St.)
B - Dublin Bread Company Restaurant (6-7 Sackville St.)

Features



Street and Lower Abbey Street, south corner. The transmitter was rated at 1.5 kilowatts and fitted with a converter and 24 stud discharge inductance tuned to 600 metres (500kHz).

The equipment was out of order because four days after the United Kingdom entered World War 1 the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) was passed giving the government wide ranging powers such as the taking over of buildings. Because of the Act the radio stations had to take down their aerials and they were not allowed to transmit or receive. However, the school remained open teaching Morse code and radio theory. Fergus O'Kelly recalls:⁵ *"I took six men. One was Seán "Blimey" O'Connor, an electrician, and a member of the Kimmage Garrison from London. O'Connor's Cockney accent had earned him the nick-name "Blimey". Another was Arthur Shields, the well-known Abbey Theatre actor, and I also had David Burke a Wireless Operator. I entered Reis's building through the Abbey street door and went up the stairs to the top flat where the caretaker lived – an elderly lady named [Mary] Brown. I advised her to leave and she did so. The wireless room was sealed by the British military. I broke the seals and David Burke and I entered"*.

The equipment had been disconnected over a year and a half earlier. Quite a lot of work had to be done to put it into working order. The rebels went out on the roof and found that the aerial had been taken down but the poles had been lying in the valley of the roof and the clamps were still on the wall. They immediately set about making a new aerial and setting the poles upright to carry it. Sean Mc Garry obtained the necessary wire from the General Electric Company in Trinity Street. Sean went off and came back with a horse-drawn cart with complete supplies of all requirements. Fergus O'Kelly recalls:⁶ *"On seeing that the roof of the Wireless School was dominated by the dome of the D.B.C. (Dublin Bread Company) building and would be under fire from across the river, I sent word to the Post Office that the D.B.C would have to be occupied, or else we would have no security for the wireless school. Captain Weafer, 2nd Battalion, was then sent over with a company and they occupied the block from Abbey Street to the river. They were of great help in keeping up constant sniping against enemy positions which were firing at us while we erected the aerial and made the necessary connections. The heavy sniping forced us to stop work on the roof until dark"*.

The British army were taken completely by surprise. They had four barracks in Dublin, and each had only about one hundred men on duty at the time. Lots of the army personnel, including many Irish, were away fighting in World War 1, on leave or at the races in Fairyhouse on Easter Monday. Reinforcements were requested to come from the Curragh Camp.⁷

At 4.20 p.m. Mr. N. Well, Post Office clerk at Amiens Street received a letter from Headquarters, Irish Command, Parkgate, Dublin which read: "Will you please have this cipher telegram dispatched to London over your direct wire? – (signed) F. J. Grimthy, Major."⁸

In the late afternoon H.M.S. Adventure, lying at Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire) sent a coded message in Morse to the Admiralty in Whitehall, London advising them of the insurrection in Dublin and the occupation of the G.P.O.⁹ It was signed on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of the British military forces in Ireland. The Commander-in-Chief, Major-General Lovick Friend, was in England on short leave when the Rising occurred. He returned immediately to Ireland.¹⁰

Tuesday 25th April 1916

William Daly a member of the rebels recalls:¹¹ *"I was awakened at 2.30 a.m. and found that someone had put a pillow under my head and covered me over with a blanket and taken off my collar and tie while I was sleeping. A pint jug of steaming hot tea was handed to me while sitting upon the mattress and in another minute a plate with three fried eggs and sausages with plenty of bread and butter was placed before me. I had only two packages of biscuits since 9.30 a.m. the previous day. That early morning breakfast was one of the most glorious meals I have ever had, the memory of it lingered with me for many a day as I was young and healthy and had not a care in the world even in the midst of the events taking place around me. I made short work of that grub both because I was ravenous and had to report to Capt. Breen at 2.45 a.m. On reporting he asked me of my knowledge of wireless,*

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which was limited. My job was to have another attempt to re-erect the aerials and poles on the roof in preparation of sending messages by wireless to the outside world and thus break down the wall of silence built by the enemy.

On the roof there were about four men waiting to push the poles in position when the aerial was fixed to the pulleys. Blimey fixed one pole in the Abbey Street side of the roof which was an easy matter. I had to fix the other on the O'Connell Street end of the roof which was a difficult proposition as there was only a shallow valley to the roof at that point and necessitated clamping the poles to the wall of a higher building adjoining and for which a clamp was already in position. To reach the clamp I had to climb a narrow ledge which exposed me above the ridge tiles and gave me about ten minutes work unbolting the clamp, fixing the bolt into position and bolting up the clamp again. Dawn was breaking at this time and the roofs of Dublin made a lovely silhouette for anyone interested in that type of beauty, but I was interested in my work and wanted to get it done. I had been working for about five minutes when something [like a pebble] struck the wall at the side of me. I did not take any notice; then two or three more pebbles struck the wall. I then shouted to the fellows about eight feet below to stop throwing things. I'll not state the words I used as they were spoken in a strong cockney dialect and I was assured that they were not doing anything. When I had just completed the clamping of the pole a corner brick of the wall was shattered. I then realised that I had been a target for at least half a minute and what I thought were pebbles were bullets fired apparently from the tower of Amiens Street station. I was thankful that it was the last bullet and not the first that made me know the actual conditions of affairs, otherwise I doubt whether I would have carried out my job. I dropped from the ledge into the valley all of a heap and remained there for a while in a faint as the reaction set in and the fear of being under fire passed away. Some of the lads thought I had been hit. After that incident I went and had another feed and slept until midday. I then took up post at a window facing mid Abbey Street and with the exception of taking an interest in a fire which occurred at Lawrence's toy shop and in the goings and comings of looters with whom Sheehy Skeffington was remonstrating and appealing to go to their homes, there was nothing of importance occurring at Reis's until Tuesday afternoon".

On Tuesday afternoon Liam Tannam, Captain 'E' Company 3rd Battalion Dublin Brigade was sent over from the G.P.O. to take charge of Reis's and the D.B.C. as Captain Weafer who was in command of that post was wounded. He was told the main purpose of the post was to protect the wireless station. He was instructed to break all glass in the windows of the rooms occupied for fighting purposes. And to make sure the stairways were well barricaded. At about 5.30 p.m. Fergus recalls what happened:¹² "David Burke had tackled the connecting up of the transmitting plant and putting it into commission. The apparatus was standard 1 ½ K.W. ship's set and so was familiar to Burke a Wireless Operator. It was found that the electric power from the Pigeon House Station was still on, and so the motor convertor supplying the power for operating the set was available. On reporting to H.Q. that the transmitting apparatus was operating, a message was sent over from James Connolly commanding the Dublin area for broadcast transmission. As the receiving apparatus could not be got to operate correctly it was not possible to get in direct touch with any station or ship but the message was sent out on the normal commercial wavelength in the hope that some ship would receive it and relay it as interesting news. As far as I can remember, the first message announced the proclaiming of the Irish Republic and the taking over of Dublin city by the Republican army. A later message stated that the British troops had attacked and had been repulsed and that the positions were still held by the republican forces."

The first message read as follows:^{13 14} "IRISH REPUBLIC DECLARED IN DUBLIN TODAY. IRISH TROOPS HAVE CAPTURED CITY AND ARE IN FULL POSSESSION. ENEMY CANNOT MOVE IN CITY. THE WHOLE COUNTRY RISING. PEARSE GOC. CONNOLLY COMMANDING DUBLIN, PLUNKETT CHIEF OF STAFF".

Before nightfall two Rebels went across to the G.P.O. and asked for two girls to come across to Reis's to prepare meals. Aíne Ní Riain and Mary English volunteered. The password to get into Reis's was "Wireless".

Wednesday 26th April 1916

Aíne Ní Riain recalls the early hours of Wednesday morning:¹⁵ "The wireless was in operation upstairs – John O'Connor (Blimey of the London Irish) was at it all the night with Fergus O'Kelly... There was a good lot of

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shooting that night and we were all taking cover. Mrs. English was giving out the rosary and we were answering it.”

The second message:¹⁶“THE ARMY OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC, DUBLIN COMMAND. BATTLES BETWEEN ARMY OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED IRISH REPUBLIC AND THE FORCES OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE ARE NOW IN DAILY PROGRESS IN EVERY PROVINCE IN IRELAND. PEARSE C-IN-C ARMY OF IRISH REPUBLIC, JAMES CONNOLLY, DUBLIN DIVISION COMMANDANT GENERAL.”

The third message:¹⁷“BRITISH TROOPS HAVE BEEN REPULSED WITH GREAT SLAUGHTER IN THE ATTEMPT TO TAKE THE IRISH POSITION. THE PEOPLE ARE WILDLY ENTHUSIASTIC FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT PEARSE IS COMMANDING”.

David Burke continued at intervals throughout the night transmitting in Morse code as he knew from his experience as a wireless operator that the signals would travel further at night. Across the road in the G.P.O. Liam Daly of the Rathfarnham regiment could see the sheets of flashing light coming from the top floor of Reis’s as Blimey tapped out the Morse code dots and dashes on the spark transmitter.

On Wednesday morning around 8 a.m. H.M.S. Helga dropped anchor, at the Custom House, on the River Liffey and using its 12-pounder gun, opened fire on Liberty Hall, the perceived rebel HQ, now abandoned. The ships log recorded 24 shells being fired.¹⁸

A message was brought over from the G.P.O signed “Capt. Breen” with instructions to evacuate the wireless school. Fergus O’Kelly recalls:¹⁹ “*I could not understand this message but was assured by the bearer that it was authentic, and we should evacuate the premises and retire to the Post Office but would probably be back. There was serious disinclination to leave but eventually we all went across to the G.P.O, taking the course through Marlboro’ Street to the Pro-Cathedral and then into O’Connell Street and across to the G. P.O. There was heavy fire down the street from O’Connell Bridge as each man ran across. When all were safely across, I crossed over and reported to James Connolly stating that I had received an order to come back to the G.P.O. He said; “I know; now you can go back to Reis’s”. I saw Joseph Plunkett to inform him of the progress of events and then assembled the men for a return to Reis’s building. The firing was much heavier when going back and two men were missing when we got to Reis’s. In view of the general deterioration of the position and the heavy fire [from the British troops], it was decided to attempt to remove the apparatus to the Post Office. Some parts were extremely heavy and bringing them down the narrow stairs was very difficult in Reis’s building.*

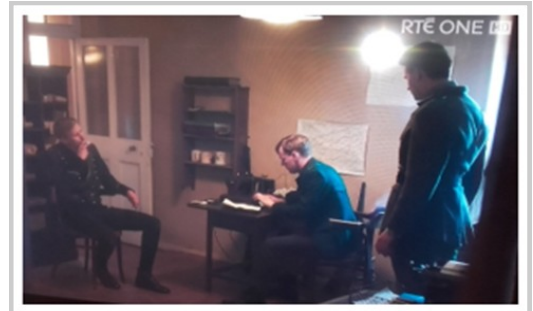
William Daly continues:²⁰ “*The receiving apparatus of the wireless was dismantled in readiness for removal to the G.P.O. We got a large table and having upturned it, placed the wireless gear on it and covered it over with a white table cloth and six of us started off to cross O’Connell Street with our burden. Immediately we came into the line of fire, the firing ceased and not a shot was fired as we went on our journey. We were amazed and for the time being could not understand why we were respected in this manner. The only reason that could be attributed was that it was thought we were carrying a badly-wounded or dead man across to the G.P.O.*

On reaching the G.P.O. they reported to Joe Plunkett and received approval for the erection of an aerial and receiving apparatus brought from Reis’s. They erected an aerial across the quadrangle at roof level. Fergus O’Kelly was assisted in this work by J.J. Walsh, who was a Post Office employee and had some knowledge of telegraphy. The difficulties of trying to renovate long unused apparatus and the rapidly deteriorating conditions in the G.P.O. due to incendiary bombing etc., rendered their efforts futile and it was found they were more usefully employed helping to fight the encroaching fires. The night was spent in the G.P.O. trying to get some sleep for the second time since Monday.”

Thursday 27th April 1916

The Irish Independent newspaper reported:

“The streets were entirely cleared of people, and all day long the bombardment continued unceasingly. About noon two huge fires broke out in O’Connell Street, and soon the Hotel Metropole and all the block of buildings for a long distance into Middle Abbey Street were ablaze. The G.P.O was also set ablaze in the evening”.



RTE 1. Re-enactment of wireless transmission.

Features

Fergus O’Kelly recalls:²¹ *“The fires began, and incendiary bombs began to drop on the roof. The fires took a grip, and I abandoned the wireless work and was operating a fire hose instead. The water had evidently been turned off, because only a weak stream could be got from the hydrants. A general evacuation was ordered and the whole garrison assembled on the ground floor towards the back of the building. They retreated and took up positions in the houses along Moore Street. There was a lull in the fighting from 4 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. when fighting broke out again. When darkness fell Lower O’Connell Street was a mass of flames”.*

Friday 28th April 1916

Fifty years later Fergus O’Kelly recalled:²² *“This was principally a day of fire-fighting. The sight of O’Connell Street burning from end to end, the deserted street with its abandoned trams, its tangle of tramway wires, the lancers’ dead horses – is not easy to forget even after fifty years.”*

Saturday 29th April 1916

At 2.30 p.m. Patrick Pearse surrendered to Major-General Lowe on Parnell Street. The Rising was over.

Aftermath

Approximately 470 people died during the five days of the Rising including forty children. The Rising itself was a failure but it sowed the seed for the beginning of the Republic of Ireland due to the 16 executions after the Rising.

The broadcasts were picked up by the Admiralty Wireless Station at Skerries.²³ The station had only come into operations a few months earlier and was being used as a direction-finding station and an intercept station.

Several newspapers reported how the rebels used wireless to report the rising. The Drogheda Independent of 13 May 1916 reported: *“One of the places taken possession of by the insurgents was the wireless school over Reis’s shop at the corner of Abbey Street, and here during the nights the wireless apparatus was re-erected complete with aerials. Whether messages were sent or received is not known.”*

In Pennsylvania, America one of the headlines in the ‘New Castle News’ paper of Saturday 29th April 1916 read ‘Wireless Tells Story of New State’. *“News of the action of the rebels in declaring Ireland free and independent of the British government was sent out from the revolutionary headquarters in the Dublin post office (sic) by wireless today”.*

Some papers had inaccurate information that Connolly and his men gained control of a wireless station in Stephen’s Green. Eddie Bohan in his booklet ‘Rebel Radio’ remarks:²⁵ *“The Reis radio station and the men who set it up created a precedent for rebellions in the future when leaders of various coup d’état would place seizing broadcasting stations as one of their main priorities”.*



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Michael Kirwan EI3KO

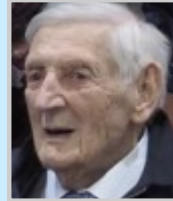


Silent Keys



Silent Key Cornelius, Neily Connolly EI6CB

We regret to report the death on Sunday January 31st of Cornelius, Neily Connolly of Skibbereen, Co. Cork. While not active in recent years, Neily was a very well known radio experimenter and many amateurs from home and abroad will have been welcomed over the years to his shop and home in the centre of Skibbereen town. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Ellen, sons Gerard, John EI6CMB, Finbarr, his daughters Mary, Esther and Deirdre, his daughter-in-laws, son-in-laws, grandchildren and all his relatives and friends. Neily was laid to rest in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Skibbereen.



May he rest in peace



Silent Key Diarmuid O'Sullivan EI5FI

We regret to announce the death of Diarmuid O'Sullivan EI5FI from Terenure, Co. Dublin. He passed away peacefully at Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross on the 5th May 2020. Diarmuid will be very sadly missed by his relatives, friends, neighbours, dog Tutsi and cat Genie. He was predeceased by his sister Mary.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilis

Silent Key Brian Gundry EI3IK

It is with great regret that we announce the death of Brian Gundry EI3IK from Virginia, Co. Cavan. His death occurred almost a year ago. Brian was a member of the IRTS since 1996. We extend our sympathy to his family, relatives and friends.

May he rest in peace

Silent Key Peter Grant EI4HX

(Tribute by Tom McDermott EI9CJ)



We regret to inform you of the death of Peter Grant, EI4HX on Tuesday 2nd March 2021. Formerly of Kilcoo, Co. Down he passed away suddenly at his home in Glenmore Park, Mhuirhevnemor, Dundalk, CO. Louth. He will be sadly missed by his loving wife Eileen, sons Joey and John, sisters Ita, Patricia, Kay, Veronica, May and Josephine, daughters in-law Nadine and Lorraine, brothers and sisters in-law, extended family relatives, neighbours and friends. "My first meeting with Peter was on 145.2 Mhz FM in September 1995. Subsequently, we spoke almost daily on 70.26 Mhz AM using old taxi two way radios. Later we went SSB and life changed. In 1996 Peter got involved in the WAI awards. He was passionate about this and enlisted my help. Another great passion for him was the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society. Peter also put a huge amount of energy into the IRTS as the Awards Curator. He attended most rallies and, in spite of declining health, he continued his interest in amateur radio. If you are passing through Dundalk on the Eastern bypass you can't help but notice Peter's aerals on his house facing the retail park."

May he rest in peace



EI DXCC Single Band Status as at 28 th February												
Compiled by Joe Ryan EI7GY												
Pos	Call	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2
11	EI4DQ	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	2
10	EI2GLB	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	
10	EI2JD	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	
10	EI3I0	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	
10	EI6FR	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	
10	EI7BA	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	
10	EI9FBB	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	
9	EI6IZ	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10		
9	EI8IQ		80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10	6	
9	EI8IU	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10		
9	EI9JF	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10		
8	EI1DG		80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10		
8	EI5GM		80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10		
8	EI7GY		80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10		
8	EI9FVB		80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10		
7	EI3CTB			40	30	20	17	15	12	10		
7	EI4BZ		80	40	30	20	17	15		10		
7	EI8GS		80	40		20	17	15	12	10		
6	EI3HA			40		20	17	15	12	10		
6	EI7JZ			40		20	17	15	12	10		
6	EI9HX			40		20	17	15	12	10		
5	EI2II			40		20	17	15		10		
5	EI4CF			40		20	17	15		10		
5	EI4GJB					20	17	15	12	10		
5	EI4HH					20	17	15	12	10		
5	EI5GSB			40		20	17	15		10		
5	EI6AL					20	17	15	12	10		
5	EI6JK			40		20		15	12	10		
5	EI8JX			40	30	20	17	15				
5	EI9E		80	40		20		15		10		
5	EI9GLB					20	17	15	12	10		
4	EI4HQ			40		20		15		10		
4	EI5EV					20	17	15		10		
4	EI9CN			40		20	17	15				
3	EI4GK					20		15		10		
3	EI4GNB					20		15		10		
3	EI6FM					20		15		10		
3	EI6HB					20		15		10		
3	EI7GL			40						10	6	
3	EI9HQ					20		15		10		
2	EI5IF					20		15				
2	EI6GI			40		20						
2	EI7IG					20		15				
2	EI7JN					20		15				
2	EI9KF			40		20						
1	EI3EBB										6	
1	EI5FQB					20						
1	EI5KO					20						
1	EI6S		80									
1	EI7BMB										6	
1	EI9CJ									10		

EI call signs in ARRL's DXCC Listings - *Compiled by JOE Ryan EI7GY*

as at 28th February 2021

Entries in Bold Type show changes since 30th November 2020

<p>Mixed</p> <p>357 EI6S 354 EI7CC 349 EI6FR 347 EI8EM 346 EI7BA 336 EI9FBB 334 EI3IO 331 EI5GM 330 EI9O 328 EI9JF 324 EI2GLB 320 EI4II 316 EI8IU 312 EI6IZ 312 EI8FH 306 EI2HY 306 EI4CF 306 EI7JZ (+4) 304 EI2JD 303 EI2CR 302 EI9FVB 300 EI8GS 279 EI9GLB 276 EI4BZ 274 EI6AL 263 EI5JQ 262 EI2GX 259 EI4HH (+10) 253 EI1DG (+2) 249 EI5GUB 244 EI7GY 243 EI6FM 243 EI6JK 239 EI2II (New) 236 EI3HA 230 EI4GXB 229 EI3CTB (+8) 220 EI9E 214 EI5IF 210 EI6IL 209 EI7JN 208 EI6HB 207 EI5GSB (+5) 205 EI9CN (+1) 201 EI4IR 200 EI5EV 189 EI9HQ 188 EI4GNB 184 EI4HQ (+84) 175 EI7IG 173 EI6GI 172 EI5KO 162 EI5FQB 160 EI4GZB 135 EI9CF 134 EI9KF 129 EI4GD 128 EI8HA 127 EI9CJ 121 EI8JK 110 EI2JC 109 EI100YXQ 104 EI5GB 104 EI9GWB 103 EI3HDB 102 EI6GRB 101 EI2KJ 101 EI7JQ 101 EI8JB 100 EI3GAB 100 EI3ISB 100 EI8GVB 100 EI8KF 100 EI9GGB 100 EI9HOB</p> <p>CW</p> <p>344 EI6FR 340 EI7BA 334 EI7CC 322 EI9JF</p>	<p>321 EI9FBB 309 EI6IZ 305 EI8FH 302 EI8IU 301 EI2GLB 301 EI3IO 293 EI4CF 288 EI2JD 258 EI6AL 256 EI4BZ 248 EI5GM 236 EI7GY 236 EI8JX 215 EI1DG 213 EI4HH (+16) 210 EI9FVB 183 EI7JZ (+3) 173 EI6GI 169 EI7IG 166 EI4HQ (New) 153 EI3HA (+1) 143 EI9E 142 EI3CTB (+1) 127 EI9CF 126 EI4BK 125 EI6HB 113 EI2KK 109 EI2IH 101 EI5EV 100 EI3KE 100 EI3KG</p> <p>Phone</p> <p>354 EI6S 352 EI7CC 347 EI8EM 344 EI7BA 342 EI6FR 324 EI9FBB 307 EI3IO 306 EI9HX 300 EI4GK 299 EI8GS 293 EI9JF 292 EI2GLB 292 EI7JZ (+2) 292 EI9FVB 287 EI8IU 284 EI2JD 279 EI9GLB 275 EI4CF 249 EI5GUB 241 EI6JK 232 EI2FM 231 EI2II (+71) 230 EI4HH (+8) 223 EI6AL 222 EI8FH 219 EI4BZ 218 EI3HA 216 EI7GL 215 EI9E 208 EI4GJB 200 EI5GSB (+1) 200 EI6IL 200 EI9CN 188 EI2CH 186 EI7II 186 EI9HQ 183 EI6HB 177 EI3CTB (+1) 177 EI5IF 177 EI9FE 171 EI4GNB 162 EI5FQB 128 EI4HQ (New) 108 EI8JK 106 EI1DG 103 EI3HDB 103 EI6GGB 102 EI4DJB</p>	<p>101 EI3IP 100 EI3GAB</p> <p>RTTY / Digital</p> <p>307 EI7BA 296 EI6FR 243 EI8IU 234 EI1DG (+3) 207 EI2GLB 195 EI3CTB (+17) 195 EI8FH 159 EI5KO 143 EI8KN (+41) 134 EI2II (New) 131 EI6HB 128 EI9FVB 127 EI9JF 117 EI9KF 114 EI4BZ 114 EI8GS 111 EI4IWB (New) 108 EI5IF 103 EI2JD (New) 100 EI3ISB 100 EI5GSB (New) 100 EI8GVB 100 EI9CN (New)</p> <p>160m</p> <p>253 EI7BA 213 EI3IO 144 EI6IZ 143 EI6FR 138 EI9FBB 126 EI2JD 113 EI9JF 106 EI8IU 102 EI4DQ 101 EI2GLB</p> <p>80m</p> <p>310 EI6S 301 EI7BA 244 EI9FBB 242 EI6FR 174 EI9JF 173 EI2JD (+1) 151 EI3IO 145 EI6IZ 141 EI9E 136 EI4BZ 135 EI2GLB 112 EI7GY 111 EI1DG (+6) 110 EI8GS 110 EI8IU 106 EI4DQ 103 EI5GM 103 EI8IQ 100 EI9FVB</p> <p>40m</p> <p>320 EI7BA 282 EI6FR 281 EI9JF 258 EI9FBB 216 EI6IZ 209 EI4CF 208 EI2GLB 207 EI2JD 202 EI3IO 159 EI4BZ 159 EI7JZ (+2) 154 EI6JK 150 EI8GS 150 EI8IU 149 EI9E 145 EI3CTB (+13) 139 EI1DG (+7) 131 EI8JX 128 EI7GY</p>	<p>128 EI9HX 127 EI4HQ (New) 127 EI9FVB 120 EI2II (New) 119 EI4DQ 117 EI7GL 115 EI5GM 112 EI5GSB (+3) 112 EI6GI 102 EI8IQ 102 EI9KF 100 EI3HA (New) 100 EI9CN (New)</p> <p>30m</p> <p>333 EI7BA 282 EI6FR 279 EI9JF 258 EI9FBB 233 EI6IZ 231 EI3IO 184 EI8IU 183 EI2GLB 157 EI7GY 143 EI3CTB (+29) 140 EI4BZ 130 EI1DG (+8) 127 EI2JD 114 EI8JX 111 EI8IQ 107 EI4DQ 106 EI9FVB 100 EI5GM</p> <p>20m</p> <p>343 EI7BA 340 EI6FR 329 EI9FBB 294 EI9JF 286 EI8IU 266 EI2JD 264 EI9FVB 261 EI3IO 257 EI9HX 256 EI4CF 256 EI8GS 255 EI2GLB 247 EI6IZ 233 EI7JZ (+4) 219 EI5GM 212 EI4BZ 202 EI1DG (+5) 191 EI6FM 190 EI3HA 189 EI9E 184 EI2II (+79) 183 EI8JX 179 EI4HH (+25) 178 EI3CTB (+31) 173 EI9GLB 171 EI7JN 168 EI6AL 168 EI7GY 162 EI5KO 161 EI6JK 156 EI5GSB (+4) 155 EI6HB 153 EI9CN 146 EI6GI 144 EI4GJB 139 EI9HQ 137 EI4GNB 136 EI4HQ (New) 133 EI5FQB 133 EI5IF 115 EI7IG 113 EI4GK 112 EI8IQ 109 EI4DQ 104 EI5EV 104 EI9KF</p>	<p>17m</p> <p>335 EI7BA 308 EI6FR 306 EI9FBB 272 EI8IU 260 EI9JF 238 EI6IZ 222 EI9FVB 216 EI2GLB 199 EI2JD (+1) 193 EI6AL 177 EI1DG (+8) 171 EI7GY 170 EI4HH (+22) 166 EI7JZ (+1) 162 EI4CF 155 EI9HX 147 EI4BZ 146 EI3IO 146 EI5GM 145 EI3HA (+2) 142 EI2II (New) 141 EI8GS 128 EI3CTB (+14) 127 EI4GJB 121 EI9GLB 117 EI5GSB (+12) 107 EI9CN 105 EI4DQ 105 EI8IQ 104 EI8JX 100 EI5EV (New)</p> <p>15M</p> <p>335 EI7BA 318 EI6FR 305 EI9FBB 273 EI8IU 256 EI9FVB 253 EI2GLB 251 EI4CF 234 EI2JD (+1) 227 EI3IO 225 EI9JF 223 EI6IZ 206 EI4BZ 204 EI7JZ (+5) 203 EI8GS 197 EI6AL 197 EI9E 193 EI1DG (+3) 193 EI6JK 187 EI4HH (+16) 172 EI9HX 166 EI2II (New) 160 EI5GM 159 EI6FM 158 EI3CTB (+21) 156 EI7GY 155 EI6HB 154 EI8JX 149 EI8IQ 148 EI4GNB 139 EI9GLB 138 EI3HA (+2) 138 EI5GSB (+3) 129 EI9CN (+1) 120 EI4GJB 120 EI4HQ (New) 109 EI7JN 108 EI4DQ 107 EI5EV 107 EI5IF 105 EI9HQ 104 EI4GK 104 EI7IG</p>	<p>213 EI9FVB 208 EI6FR 170 EI6AL 168 EI2GLB 165 EI9JF 164 EI6IZ 153 EI2JD (+1) 145 EI1DG (+7) 140 EI6JK 140 EI7JZ (+1) 128 EI3IO 124 EI8IQ 118 EI7GY 110 EI9HX 109 EI8GS 108 EI4HH (+8) 103 EI9GLB 101 EI5GM 100 EI3CTB (New) 100 EI3HA (New) 100 EI4DQ 100 EI4GJB</p> <p>10m</p> <p>308 EI7BA 284 EI9FBB 262 EI3IO 237 EI6FR 232 EI2GLB 221 EI9FVB 215 EI8IU 211 EI8GS 202 EI2JD (+2) 199 EI4CF 189 EI4BZ 183 EI1DG (+4) 182 EI6AL 181 EI4HH (+1) 177 EI9E 173 EI6JK 170 EI6IZ 170 EI7JZ (+2) 159 EI9JF 147 EI6FM 145 EI5GM 144 EI3CTB (+16) 144 EI7GL 137 EI4GNB 136 EI4GK 135 EI7GY 133 EI8IQ 132 EI2II (+31) 132 EI6HB 125 EI9GLB 116 EI9HQ 112 EI4GJB 111 EI9CJ 111 EI9HX 110 EI5EV 105 EI4HQ (New) 104 EI5GSB (+1) 102 EI4DQ 101 EI3HA</p> <p>6m</p> <p>164 EI3IO 150 EI9FBB 126 EI7BMB 120 EI4DQ 118 EI7BA 115 EI6FR 111 EI7GL 110 EI8IQ 109 EI2JD 108 EI2GLB 101 EI3EBB</p> <p>2m</p> <p>153 EI4DQ</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DXCC Challenge</p> <p>2932 EI7BA 2534 EI9FBB 2446 EI6FR 1991 EI9JF 1964 EI3IO 1883 EI8IU 1854 EI2GLB 1840 EI6IZ 1783 EI7CC 1780 EI2JD(+6) 1583 EI9FVB 1466 EI4CF 1382 EI1DG(+50) 1356 EI4BZ 1310 EI8GS 1223 EI7JZ(+18) 1201 EI7GY 1143 EI5GM 1126 EI3CT(New) 1093 EI6AL 1090 EI6JK 1078 EI4DQE 1060 EI9HX 1048 EI8IQ 1033 EI2II (New)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DXCC Honor Roll Mixed</p> <p>340 EI6FR/349 340 EI7BA/346 339 EI7CC/354 338 EI8EM/347 337 EI6S/357 333 EI9FBB/336</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DXCC Honor Roll Phone</p> <p>338 EI7BA/344 338 EI8EM/347 337 EI7CC/352 336 EI6S/354 334 EI6FR/342</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DXCC Honor Roll CW</p> <p>338 EI6FR/344 335 EI7BA/340</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The following Silent Keys were Holders of DXCC Awards</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DXCC Honor Roll Mixed</p> <p>336 EI8H/365 331 EI2GS/340</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DXCC Mixed</p> <p>365 EI8H 340 EI2GS 116 EI6CPB</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DXCC CW</p> <p>109 EI4HM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DXCC Phone</p> <p>338 EI2GS 331 EI8AR 309 EI3GV 300 EI8AU 116 EI6CPB 114 EI4EX 105 EI1CS</p>
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