

# STARLITE

The Journal for the Stourbridge and district a.r.s.



G6oi  
g6srs



issue: july 2022



g4cvk

stourbridge & district amateur radio society  
incorporating  
OldSwinford Hospital School Radio Club

meetings Normally held at

oldswinford hospital school  
heath lane  
Stourbridge  
[8:00 to 10:00 pm]

visitors always welcome

during covid, The society holds its meetings  
Every Monday at norton social club,  
osmaston road, stourbridge

rsgb affiliated society

# STARLITE

Telephone Enquiries to:-

Hon. Secretary  
John Clarke M1EJG  
[01562] 700513

Or by Email to:-

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All correspondence/enquiries should  
be addressed to the Hon Secretary at:-

StARS  
c/o The Mill House  
21 Mill Lane  
Blakedown  
Kidderminster  
DY10 3ND

StARS Website URLs:-

[www.g6oi.org.uk](http://www.g6oi.org.uk)

StARS Facebook Page:-

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/stourbridge.ars/>

## Forthcoming Meetings

July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Club Meeting at Norton Social Club. 8pm

## Editor's Comment

[ Editor: [g4xom@g6oi.org.uk](mailto:g4xom@g6oi.org.uk) ]

July. We are now into the second month of meteorological Summer and the Society appears to still be in a state of limbo, with no proposed activities reported to the editor. Ever the optimist, I always look forward to receiving input from the Society's members, but I am becoming something of a pessimist, as little or nothing lands on the editorial desk. When input is received, it is from about 1.25 – 1.50% of the membership, which is not very encouraging and makes me question my efforts at producing the newsletter - a misnomer with no news to include in these pages!!! Indeed, I have no idea if the content I find is of interest. Neither do I know if the members actually read Starlite!

You may have noticed that StARS is not included in the RadCom club news section. This is directly connected to the above comment concerning lack of input. I would be happy to continue sending details to the RSGB, ***BUT*** I would appreciate confirmation from the Society that dates and location of the meetings is still correct.

The Editor is waiting patiently for some input and has even had some reading sports magazines time!

Memories, photos, projects, chit-chat, etc., would all be welcome.



Send input to: [g4xom@g6oi.org.uk](mailto:g4xom@g6oi.org.uk)

# Foundations of Amateur Radio

## *We need more glue in our hobby ...*

Since December 2010 I've been licensed as a radio amateur. For some this seems like a long time ago, for others, it's just the beginning. In my time thus far I've attempted to document and describe my journey and in doing so, I've had the unbeatable pleasure of hearing stories from others who were inspired by my efforts to join, or rejoin the hobby.

It occurred to me that it's hard to tell when you look at any one amateur if the ink on their licence is still wet, or if the whole certificate is faded and yellowed with time.

You also cannot tell by looking if one amateur turns on their gear in the car during the daily commute, or if they go out on expeditions to remote locations twice a year.

The callsign a person holds tells you even less, let alone the class of their license.

In our community we talk about mentoring and we call such people Elmers, but do we really use this as a way to glue together our hobby as its namesake might suggest?

As a result of my profile, there's a steady stream of commentary about what I do and how I do it. As you might expect, there's both good and bad, sometimes describing the same thing from opposite sides in equally heated terms.

I'd like to take this opportunity to point out that playing the man and not the ball will get you completely ignored. If however you have a specific grievance with any technical aspect of what I'm contributing, by all means let me know, but be prepared to provide references because it might come as a surprise, I do research before I open my mouth. That's not to say that I don't make mistakes, I'm sure I do and have.

Before this turns into a self congratulatory oration, I'd like to point out that all the negative feedback I see all around me does nothing to grow our hobby, does nothing to encourage learning, does nothing to reward trial and error and it doesn't contribute to society at large in any way.

I'm mentioning this because I also receive emails from amateurs who have left the community, not because of lack of interest, but because of the bullying that they've experienced.

I know that there are several local activities that I avoid because it's just not fun to bump into people who are friendly to your face whilst being vicious online.

It continues to amaze me that this topic keeps recurring and that it keeps needing to be called out. One thing I can tell you is that ignoring it doesn't work. I've described previously what you should do instead when you're the subject of such petulant behaviour, but it bears repeating. Say it out loud.

"Thank you for your comment. I don't believe that it's in the spirit of amateur radio. Please stop."

Feel free to use that phrase anytime someone in this hobby makes you feel uncomfortable.

One final observation. If you've not personally experienced this behaviour that's great, but it doesn't mean that it doesn't happen or that it's not endemic. Consider for a moment how you'd feel if you were attacked whilst being active in a hobby you love, for no other reason than that the person attacking you didn't like the wire you were using to construct a dipole or some other equally outrageous reason like your gender, sexual orientation, license

class, choice of radio or preferred on-air activity.

Say it with me:

"Thank you for your comment. I don't believe that it's in the spirit of amateur radio. Please stop."

I'm Onno VK6FLAB

## **Fun with Colin – Senior trying to reset a password**

**Colin Christie – VK2JCC**

Windows: Please enter your new password

**User:** cabbage

Windows: Sorry, the password must be more than 8 characters

**User:** boiled cabbage

Windows: Sorry, the password must contain 1 numerical character

**User:** 1 boiled cabbage

Windows: Sorry, the password cannot have blank spaces

**User:** 50damnboiled cabbages

Windows: Sorry, the password must contain at least one upper case character

**User:** 50DAMN boiled cabbages

Windows: Sorry, the password cannot use more than one upper case character consecutively

**User:** 50damnBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDon't Give Me Access Now!

Windows: Sorry, the password cannot contain punctuation.

**User:**

ReallyPissedOff50DamnBoiledCabbagesShovedUpYourAssIfYouDontGiveMeAccessNow

Windows: Sorry that password is already in use

# 40m Regenerative Receiver

*Geoff Cooper G0KVK*

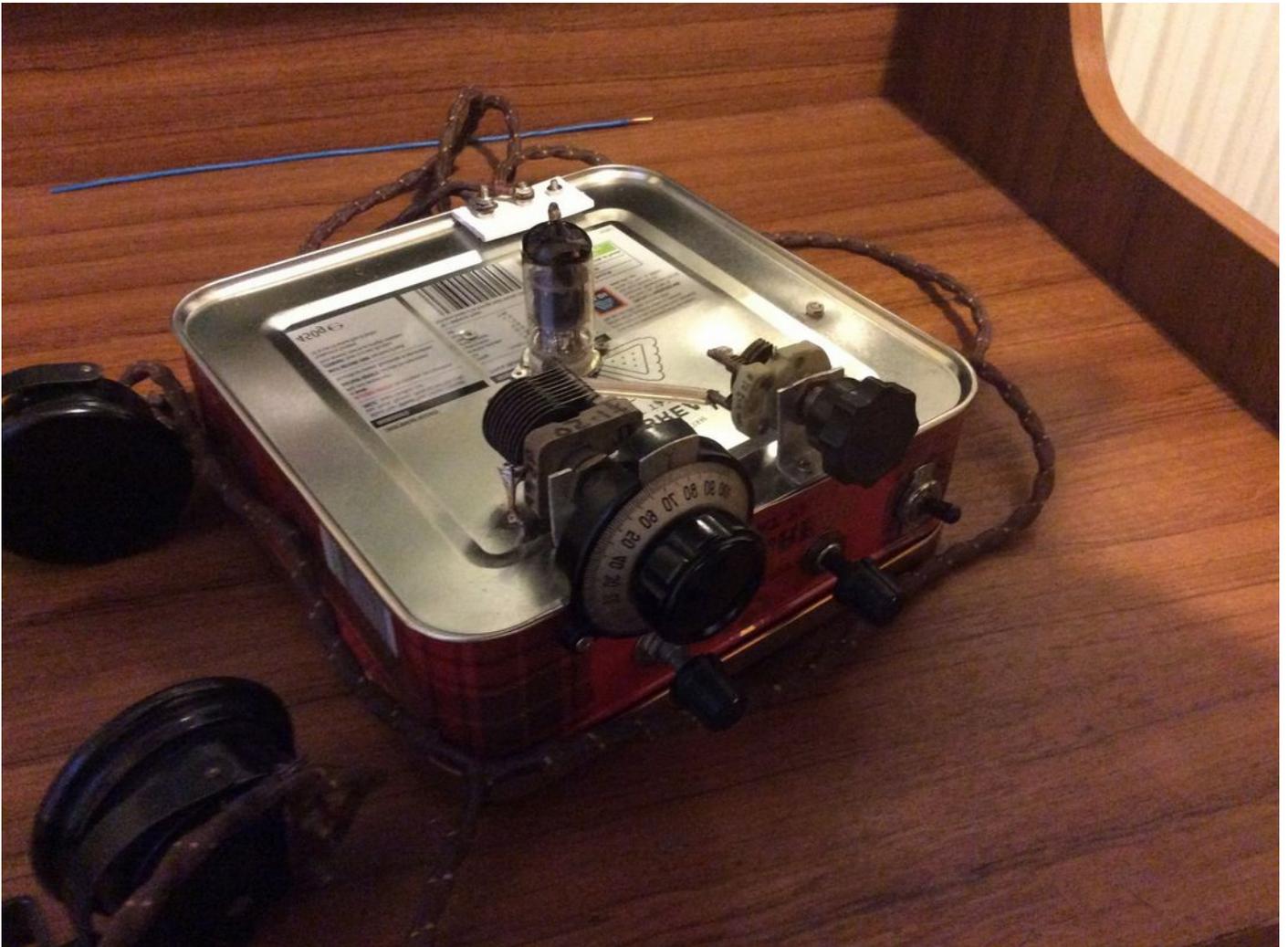
Here is a photo of a 40 meter regenerative receiver that I built.

It uses a single valve and is all battery powered. It uses four PP9 in series for the HT, and four AA for the heaters.

It was made up of parts that I had bought or had in the junk box. The circuit was taken out of the SPRAT QRP magazine and it works really well, resolving SSB and CW.

I took it to the club, but with no aerials I recorded it working back home on my Ipad.

The valve is a Triode Pentode in one envelope. The pentode is used as a Q multiplier, oscillator and detector. The Triode is used twice, once as a aerial buffer and then as an audio amplifier, which gives enough audio to drive high impedance headphones.



# The ethos and ethics of Amateur Radio

Like many hobbies, Amateur Radio has traditions, jargon and practices that are not always apparent to the newcomer. Your licence entitles you to get on the air and transmit, but, as a newcomer, you need to familiarise yourself with the way the hobby works operationally before transmitting.

Getting to know how amateur radio stations operate will provide a smooth and stress-free entry to this great hobby of ours.

Have a listen around the bands before you first transmit (if you haven't already) – monitor typical amateur QSOs (conversations). This will give you a feel for on air practices.

Once you start transmitting, steer well clear of controversial topics including:

- religion;
- politics;
- business (you can talk about your profession/trade, but you cannot advertise your services or those of anyone else);
- derogatory remarks/observations/jokes directed at any group (gender, ethnic, religious, political, sexual orientation, etc.); and
- off-colour humour.

Above all, apply common sense and good taste.

Do NOT use CB jargon – you will annoy your fellow amateurs and will be ostracised at best or roundly criticised on air at worst...

Amateur and CB radio are different hobbies, with different operating practices. This hobby has many participants with as many differing views.

Remember, you are also prohibited from transmitting any form of entertainment.

The American Radio Relay League has, for many years, published a guide for new amateurs, known as The Amateurs Code:

The Radio Amateur is:

**CONSIDERATE**...He/she never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**LOYAL**...He/She offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs.

**PROGRESSIVE**...He/She keeps his/her station up to date. It is well-built and efficient. His/Her operating practice is above reproach.

**FRIENDLY**...He/She operates slowly and patiently when requested; offers friendly advice and counsel to beginners; kind assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the marks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED**.... Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

(adapted from the original Amateur's Code, written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928)

## Essex radio amateur in Queen's Birthday Honours List

Essex-based radio ham **Tim Neobard M7TMN** has received a British Empire Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List

Essex Ham report Tim, together with other volunteers created the East Essex Hackspace – a maker community in Hockley, and at the height of the Covid pandemic, Tim and the team manufactured 12,000 face shields using the Hackspace's laser cutter – and these face shields were distributed free where they were needed. During the second lockdown, the team shifted focus to providing laptops for kids.

Read the full story with link to the BBC Essex interview at

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/ham-honoured-in-birthday-honours.html>

The next free amateur radio Foundation Online training course run by volunteers from Essex Ham starts on June 5 - places still available. Register Now

You can find out more about online training and register to join a course at

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/train/foundation-online/>

Essex Ham

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/>

<https://twitter.com/EssexHam>

## Samuel Morse gave the first public Telegraph demonstration 178 years ago

A neglected anniversary of sorts came and went May 24; it was the first public demonstration of Samuel F.B. Morse's telegraph 178 years ago at B and O Mount Clare Station, today the home of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Museum.

As with so many things, tragedy can be the mother of invention, and Morse's development of the telegraph was born from a deep personal tragedy.

Samuel Finley Breese Morse, born in 1791 in Charlestown, Massachusetts, was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Yale University and made his living as a portrait painter. He was in Washington working on a commission in 1825 when word reached him that his wife, Lucretia Pickering Walker Morse, had died of a heart attack in New Haven, Connecticut, shortly after giving birth to their third child.

In the face of wide skepticism, Morse obtained from Congress a 30,000 dollar appropriation that allowed him to pursue his work for what eventually became known as the telegraph. Morse also created what's known as Morse Code, the dot and dash code used for sending messages. Morse used different combinations of dots and dashes to represent the letters in the English alphabet and the 10 digits.

Source: Baltimoresun.com

# Bouvet Island DXpedition

In late April we successfully conducted a 4-day vessel inspection in Brazil that ended with a very good result. The inspection was carried out by a 3rd party vessel inspector and covered more than 105 checkpoints.

The vessel inspection focused on safety equipment, instruments, navigation, engines/machinery, deck, tenders, fuel and fluids, interior, and exterior. Marama is in very good condition and hence the overall feedback is positive. The vessel went through significant upgrades with regards to machinery and engines in 2021 and has since been tested for years, most lately during the previous Antarctica season. The inspection file resulted in a punch list of only a few minor items to be followed up, no major findings during the 4-day inspection.

The team is currently working on the final preparations for packing the container scheduled to be shipped from Oslo in early September. Preparing the packing and shipping the container is extremely time consuming and requires a focus on details as our more than 2 years of work now is being materialized into packing lists and labeling the equipment. Today we have finally decided our container will be shipped to Port Stanley, Falkland Island. In Port Stanley a local team of ham radio operators will assist us in receiving the container, conduct a container inspection and make sure all is OK before the team arrive in early January. To Bouvet the team will bring with us 6500 kg of equipment, which includes several tons of fuel and food. Our contract allows for 22 days on the island, but we have food for 30 days and a plan for rationing should we have to stay beyond 22 days.

At this stage all the operators have already paid their full deposit of their individual 20,000 USDs operator fee. This is your insurance that we will do whatever we can to make this DXpedition a success. In a few weeks we will pay our 2nd vessel deposit to Marama. Ultimately this represents a huge undertaking for us financially as well a commitment to go to Bouvet and activate the rare #2 DXCC Bouvet island. With all the preparation and planning over the course of the last two years you can rely on our commitment and our determination to go onshore Bouvet in a zodiac 7 months from now.

Going to Bouvet would simply not be possible without the support from the vendors, clubs, foundations, and individual sponsors. June 1st, we completed our budget update, and this shows we're still missing roughly 100,000 USDs out of our 690,000 USDs budget to be able to go to Bouvet. As we now prepare for the next vessel deposit, we need your support to close the gap. Please consider supporting us by donating upfront.

You can follow our plans from our website and the 3Y0J Facebook pages:?

<http://www.3y0j.no>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/3093983840726129>

Thank you, Oslo 3rd June 2022

Ken Opskar, LA7GIA, Co-Leader

Rune Oye, LA7THA, Co-Leader??

Erwann Merrien, LB1QI, Co-Leader

## Platinum Jubilee ham radio station GB70U on TV

The Guernsey Amateur Radio Society got coverage on ITV and BBC for their special event station for the Platinum Jubilee, GB70U

**Keith Le Boutillier GU6EFB** was interviewed by ITV, he said:

"Amateur radio is a hobby in which you can communicate with people all over the world."

"A lot of stations are aware it's the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the one thing that has become evident is the affection for the Queen across the world, even in countries which she has no direct control over."

"We've been speaking with some stations in Brazil last night and we were quite surprised to find that they actually watched the Trooping of the Colour. That's the same for a lot of other countries and amateurs watching it on the television, it's amazing."

Watch the ITV news broadcast at

<https://www.itv.com/news/channel/2022-06-04/guernsey-radio-enthusiasts-use-tech-to-travel-the-world>

The GB70U station also featured in the Guernsey Press.

## EI90IRTS

The Irish Radio Transmitters Society was founded in 1932 and this year the society celebrates its 90th birthday.

To mark the occasion the society has secured the special call-sign EI90IRTS.

Since its initial use the call-sign has attracted multiple pile-ups on all bands and modes it has been used on. This call is available to activate for any EI IRTS licensed member that's interested in activating it. The special call can be activated on all bands and modes and the duration of any activation is entirely up to the operator. It can be for an hour or even a day!

All logs must be submitted electronically in ADIF format.

To make sure that the call-sign is not used on the same bands or modes at the same time, the use of the call-sign is being coordinated by Declan, EI9FVB. A special WhatsApp group is in use to help with the coordination. If any fully licensed EI IRTS member would like to activate the EI90IRTS call-sign you are please asked to get in touch with Declan EI9FVB by email to [horandx /at/ gmail.com](mailto:horandx/at/gmail.com) . A special QSL card will be made available, once printed.

Direct QSLs can be sent to Dave, EI6AL. For more information including QSL details please see [www.qrz.com/db/EI90IRTS](http://www.qrz.com/db/EI90IRTS)

## Why did Sunspots disappear for 70 years?

Eos reports five decades of data revealed a star undergoing a pause in magnetic activity similar to what the Sun experienced almost 400 years ago

Every 11 years, the number of spots dotting the surface of the Sun increases and decreases like clockwork. Astronomers have been tracking the 11-year sunspot cycle for more than 400 years, using it to better understand the chaotic magnetic field the Sun puts out. (The current solar cycle, number 25, started in 2019.) The timing of the solar cycle is remarkably consistent: Sunspot numbers rise and fall, rise and fall...except for that time that they disappeared and weren't seen again for 70 years.

That period of time, from 1645 to 1715, is known as the Maunder Minimum, named after 19th century British astronomers Edward and Annie Maunder. Astronomers still don't understand why the Sun ceased making sunspots for 70 years, but a new analysis of more than 5 decades of measurements of nearby stars has identified one that might be undergoing its own Maunder-like minimum. The star, HD 166620, could help scientists understand this mysteriously quiescent period of the Sun's history and unlock clues about how the solar dynamo functions.

"We can't build a time machine and go back to the Maunder Minimum and study the Sun as it was," said Jason Wright, an astronomer at Pennsylvania State University in University Park and a coauthor on the new analysis. "But we can find an analog and study its Maunder minimum."

Read the Eos article at

<https://eos.org/articles/why-did-sunspots-disappear-for-70-years-nearby-star-holds-clues>

## Distance Learning for Full Amateur Radio Licence Exam

Since 2011, the Bath Based Distance Learning team (BBDL) has helped over 900 students to obtain their Full Amateur Radio Licence, the next course starts in August - Book Now

Student feedback is always very positive and the pass rate continues to be well over 80%, compared with a national average of around 66%.

Having completed a second Intermediate Licence course in May, the team are now planning another Full Licence level course. The course will run from the end of August to December.

Students will receive weekly work packages via an on-line classroom and will have access to weekly on-line tutorials. Each student is allocated to one of the remote tutors who provide feedback and additional guidance. There are weekly quizzes to check on progress and at the end of the course there will be a number of mock exams.

There is no charge for the training but applicants must work through some pre-course material and complete a quiz to be eligible for a place. This focuses on the 'new' topics that were introduced to the Intermediate syllabus in 2019. The aim of the pre-course classroom is to make sure applicants can use the BBDL systems and to ensure that they are ready for the Full training.

Each student will need to provide their own RSGB Full Licence textbook and arrange their own exam at the end of the course. Advice will be provided as part of the course.

The deadline for course applications is Tuesday 26 July. To request full details and an application form, please e-mail BBDL Team Leader, Steve, G0FUW, via [g0fufw@attiscali.co.uk](mailto:g0fufw@attiscali.co.uk)

Bath-Based Distance Learning (BBDL)

<https://badarc.webs.com/bath-training>

## ITU's ham radio station celebrates 60 years on air

Did you know that the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies owns and operates its very own radio station?

It started broadcasting on 10 June 1962 and was officially inaugurated the following month by then UN Secretary-General U Thant and ITU Secretary-General Gerald Gross – himself a “ham” radio enthusiast known by the personal callsign W3GG.

Recognized as a unique “country” in the ham radio community, 4U1ITU operates in accordance with privileges extended by ITU and the Government of Switzerland. It has also earned the DXCC (or ham radio “century club”) award from the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), confirming air contacts with 100 or more countries.

From its long-time home on the 5th floor of the Varembe Building in Geneva’s international district, this unique broadcasting outlet still today serves as a model for the highest standards of amateur radio station operation everywhere.

Read the full ITU story by Nick Sinanis SV3SJ, President of the International Amateur Radio Club (IARC), and Attila Matas OM1AM, Vice-president and Station Manager, IARC  
<https://www.itu.int/hub/2022/06/4u1itu-ham-radio-amateur-station-60-years/>

What is Amateur Radio?

<http://www.essexham.co.uk/what-is-amateur-radio>

Free UK amateur radio Foundation Online training course

<https://essexham.co.uk/train/foundation-online/>

## Requesting a ham radio callsign list from Ofcom

People are continuing to ask Ofcom for a list of Available amateur radio callsign but Ofcom can't provide that, you need to ask a different question

A request was made on May 9, Ofcom replied:

*Thank you for your request for information asking for a list of all available amateur radio callsigns.*

*We received this request on 9 May 2022 and have considered it under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.*

You asked:

*Under the Freedom of Information Request please would you provide me with a list of ALL AVAILABLE the Amateur Radio callsigns that have an entry at FOUNDATION, INTERMEDIATE and FULL levels.*

Our response

*Please find attached a current list of all 'Available' UK Amateur Radio Callsigns on our system, provided in Excel format. The spreadsheet contains a list of 359 previously used callsigns that are now available once more and may be chosen by someone applying for a new amateur radio licence and held in our system with status 'Available'.*

*Other call signs are auto generated from our licensing system. We do not hold a list of these because the system produces them on demand when an applicant applies for a new callsign.*

So how do you get the information that's wanted ?

The best approach seems to be to ask for a list of all ALLOCATED and RESERVED callsigns anything that doesn't appear in that list or in Ofcom's separate FORBIDDEN SUFFIXES list is likely to be AVAILABLE.

Ofcom database of Forbidden Suffixes is at

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/o1vdzd7tr274mxv/2019\\_UK\\_Forbidden\\_Amateur\\_Radio\\_Suffixes.csv](https://www.dropbox.com/s/o1vdzd7tr274mxv/2019_UK_Forbidden_Amateur_Radio_Suffixes.csv)

Those who've passed the RSGB Full exam have the option of applying for callsigns from the G and M call blocks including G2, G3, G4, G5 and M5. Details of how to apply for specific callsigns are at

<http://www.southgatearc.org/news/2020/november/g-callsigns-for-those-passing-full-exam.htm>

For those selecting a Foundation or Intermediate callsign the database can be used to see which calls are available in the M3, M6, M7 or 2\*0, 2\*1 call blocks.

You can submit a Freedom of Information request to Ofcom online at

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/new/ofcom>

## **Amateur Radio Digital Communications**

### **What is ARDC?**

Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) is a private foundation whose roots are in amateur radio and the technology of internet communication. Our mission is to support, promote, and enhance digital communication and broader communication science and technology, to promote amateur radio, scientific research, experimentation, education, development, open access, and innovation in information and communication technology

You can read the full and fascinating facts about ARDC here

<https://www.ampr.org/about/faq/>

## Iceland: Renewal of 50 MHz authorizations

National amateur radio society IRA reports on the renewal of special authorization to use 50 MHz

A translation of the post by Iceland's IRA reads:

It is pointed out that it is important that licensees who are interested in telecommunications at increased power in the 50 MHz frequency range (6 meters) this summer, send a request to that effect to Fjarskiptastofa before transmissions begin. If permission was obtained last year (2021), it is not valid this year.

Licensees must apply separately for an authorization from FST in the same way as, for example, the 70 MHz frequency band has been used. Postal address: hrh (at) [fjarskiptastofa.is](mailto:hrh@fjarskiptastofa.is) It should be specified that an application is made for increased power at 50 MHz.

The premise of this is that ÍRA received a positive response from Fjarskiptastofa on 13 May to the organisations request for renewal of increased licenses on the 6-meter band, and the agency grants Icelandic licensees increased power licenses in the 50-50.5 MHz frequency range from 1 June 2022 for 4 months or until September 31st. Full licensees are allowed to use up to 1kW and Novice licensees up to 100W.

It is very gratifying that the validity of the authorization is for longer this year than last year.

Board of IRA

<https://tinyurl.com/IARU-Iceland>

## Your committee



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M7ALS

vice president

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G6DQN

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