

PRESS RELEASE

Kingdom Amateur Radio Society,
Dunfermline,
Kingdom of Fife
Scotland

Contact : Bernie McIntosh, Secretary. gm4wzg@kars.org.uk, tel. 07752 444122

The current resurgence of interest¹ in amateur radio has led to the founding of a new Amateur Radio Society by a small group of long established enthusiasts who want to promote amateur radio activity in their local area.

Kingdom Amateur Radio Society which currently meets informally, includes in its objectives the encouraging of new entrants to amateur radio and the provision of facilities for more experienced enthusiasts to get together and participate in a wide range of amateur radio activities.

KARS Secretary Bernie McIntosh said “There are hundreds of active Radio Amateurs within 20 miles of Dunfermline and we think that many will be interested in having a new radio club on their doorstep. We hope that by starting this club we can also encourage new entrants of all ages into to the hobby.”

Membership registration of interest is now available across the internet and negotiations are ongoing to find suitable club premises. Further information can be found on the club website at www.kars.org.uk

Notes to Editors

1. The number of amateur radio licences held in the UK are at a 15 year high. Currently there are 63,995 licences issued.
2. Amateur Radio is a hobby that is unique in that it is defined by international treaty signed by over 90 nations. It is “A service of self-training, intercommunications, and technical investigation carried on by amateurs; that is, by duly authorized persons interested in radio technique solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest.”

3. Amateur Radio is a unique, fascinating and friendly hobby that captivates the interest of millions of people around the world. Radio amateurs have their own communication satellites, can communicate across the country, around the globe, or even with astronauts on space missions. Others may like to build and experiment with electronics. Some enjoy using Amateur Radio's digital communications opportunities. Those with a competitive streak enjoy "Sport Radio," whose different activities include the location of hidden radio transmitters in remote countryside locations, or "contesting" where the object is to set up radio stations in the field and compete to see who can make most contacts with others around the world. Contesting is born out of the community service aspect of amateur radio which sees teams being prepared to handle communications during times of national emergency.
4. One of the reasons that Amateur Radio is encouraged by national governments is because it has great social and educational value. Many Radio Amateurs have gone on to develop successful professional careers in engineering – others find it a satisfying alternative to their work be it in artistic or political spheres. A list of famous and highly motivated individuals who became radio amateurs early in their lives would have to include the Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi, the Kings of Spain, Jordan and Thailand, the Prime minister of Japan, President of Argentina, the broadcast Walter Kronkite, the actor Marlin Brando, the CEOs of Sony and of Apple Computers, several Nobel Prize winners, a world tennis champion, and 112 Astronauts/Cosmonauts including the first man in Space Yuri Gargarin. Dr. Michael Brown who won a Nobel Prize for Medicine he is quoted as saying "the gaining of an amateur radio operating license when I was 13 led to a life-long fascination with science."; Amateur Radio enthusiasts were named inventors of the Microwave Oven, the television tube, the cardiac pacemaker, the mobile telephone and the satellite telephone.
5. The Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB) is the national membership organisation for Amateur Radio enthusiasts. The society was first founded in 1913 and incorporated in 1926. The patron is HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT. Further information from www.rsgb.org.uk