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Kingdom Amateur Radio Society,  
Dunfermline,  
Kingdom of Fife  
Scotland

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any time.

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Kingdom Amateur Radio Society has issued its first year programme of activities.

The Society, which has been meeting on an ad-hoc basis up until now, will from meet monthly from January at the Scottish Scout HQ, Fordell Firs, near Dunfermline.

KARS Chairman Brian Donnelly said "We are grateful to the Scottish Scouting movement for their support and we look forward to providing a platform for new entrants to the hobby by means of some joint activities such as Jamboree On The Air<sup>4</sup> 2008"

Membership registration of interest is available across the internet and further information can be found on the club website at [www.kars.org.uk](http://www.kars.org.uk)

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## 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. Jamboree On The Air is an annual event in which Scouts and Guides all over the world speak to each other by means of amateur radio contacts. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared, via the radio waves. When Scouts want to meet young people from another country they usually think of attending a World Jamboree or another international gathering. But few people realize that each year, with the help of licensed amateur radio operators about half-a-million Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the--Air (JOTA). Modern communication technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without even leaving home. Today some operators even use television or computer linked communications.
5. 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.

6. 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](http://www.rsgb.org.uk)