



EI-news

IRTS supporting Amateur Radio



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Slow Scan TV from ISS



The Slow Scan Television (SSTV) transmissions from the International Space Station this month should be receivable by radio amateurs around the world. The MAI-75 SSTV system in the Russian Service Module will be put through some extended testing from December 5th starting around 15:00 UTC and running until 09:00 UTC on December 6th. Test images will be used during this period. This will provide near global coverage if all works well on 145.800 MHz FM. In the past images have been sent using the SSTV mode PD180, with a 3-minute off time between each image. The ISS puts out a strong signal on 145.800 MHz FM and a 2m handheld with a 1/4 wave antenna should be enough to receive it. ARISS SSTV Blog <http://ariss-sstv.blogspot.co.uk/> ISS Slow Scan TV information with links to Apps and ISS tracking <https://amsat-uk.org/beginners/iss-sstv/>

Digital Radio News



Two new triple-mode Digital Gateways, running Yaesu Fusion and DMR, were placed on air during the month of November. EI2DOD, located near Balla, Co Mayo was switched on Sunday the 12th of November followed by the Galway Gateway, EI2GCD, on Monday the 13th. Apart from minor teething problems, rectified as they were encountered on boot up, everything worked perfectly on day one. An excellent link between Galway and Mayo has been established, on both Fusion and DMR, bringing the two areas into regular contact. D-Star may be switched in if the demand in the locality dictates it. On Saturday the 2nd of December, the Galway System Fusion Repeater will be collected from John, MI0AAZ, and put into service during the following week. The Galway Fusion Repeater will have the facility of Wires-X built in and will default its connection to CQ-IRL where most of the Wires-X nodes will ultimately connect for networking purposes. Wires-X nodes are selectable from the radio with worldwide access. Next January, a Hytera RD985 DMR Repeater will be installed on its new site serving areas around Galway City and into the wider county area. Info from <https://ei5dd.blogspot.ie/> and <https://galwaycitygateway.blogspot.ie/>

Shannon Basin Radio Club

The Shannon Basin Radio Club will be holding its AGM on Wednesday 6th December at 9 pm in The Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone. All members are requested to attend and anyone wishing to join is more than welcome. Refreshments will be provided. Information: www.shannonbasinradioclub.com

Wild Atlantic Way

As we approach the end of the Wild Atlantic Way initiative to promote Amateur Radio, the number of requests to the WAW QSL manager has increased significantly, especially for Leitrim EI22WAW, Sligo EI33WAW, Mayo EI44WAW and Galway EI55WAW. Help from licenced individuals and clubs, operating in EI, to increase the number of QSOs will be very much appreciated. Please contact the coordinators for those call signs. For more information, checkout the IRTS web site at www.irts.ie from the activities menu, on the top of the page select *Wild Atlantic Way*, where the list of coordinators under Wild Atlantic Way may be found. More operators are urgently required for the month of December.

Tipperary Amateur Radio Club

The Annual General Meeting of the Tipperary Amateur Radio Group will be held at The Park Hotel, Clonmel on Thursday 14th December at 8pm. This is the most important meeting of the calendar year and all group members are requested to attend. Short Wave Listeners are very welcome. A number of radio related topics are up for discussion as well as plans for 2018.



IRTS AGM 2018

14/15 April 2018

Galway Bay Hotel, Salthill, Galway

Hosted by Galway VHF Group

For more information contact Steve EI5DD



December is YOTA month



December is YOTA month when several youngsters from IARU Member Societies will become active on the air with YOTA as suffix in the callsigns. From Friday 1st December to Sunday 31st of December 2017, international YOTA stations will attempt to make many contacts worldwide with each other. This event is aimed at young people and is a golden opportunity for Clubs to get youngsters who are interested in, or want to find out more about Amateur Radio, on the air. It is not a formal contest, but a way to get our current young amateurs on the air contacting hundreds of other youngsters around the world. The South African Radio League (SARL) has registered a special call sign **ZS9YOTA** on the IARU Region 1 website as an educational call sign for use by clubs and individuals during December.

Limerick Radio Club



LRC are delighted to announce that all Clubs involved in the Wild Atlantic Way project will be issued with a certificate confirming participation and showing the total number of QSO achieved at yearend. The Club with the highest number of QSO will also be awarded a trophy to honour that achievement. There will also be a certificate issued to the top three operators who achieved the highest numbers of WAW QSOs over the 12 months of the project, with an additional trophy going to the operator with the overall highest number of QSOs logged. These awards will be made at the 2018 AGM.

ECHO IRELAND

There is a vacancy for the position of Editor of Echo Ireland.

If you would like to contribute to the production of the Society's Journal contact Séamus EI8BP

South Dublin Radio Club

This year's South Dublin Radio Club Christmas Party will take place on Tuesday the 12th of December. The venue will be the *The Morgue*, Templeogue Village, from 8pm until late. Members of other clubs and visitors are, as usual, very welcome to this social event. Limited free food will be available for paid-up members; visitors can choose from the bar menu until 9pm. The club will then break for Xmas and return on January 2nd 2018.

Caroline AM Licence Granted on 648 KHz



In July 2017, Radio Caroline announced that, following approval from Ofcom, their medium wave AM licence was granted for use on 648KHz with a power of 1000 Watts ERP. A transmitter was imported from the continent and modified to suit the frequency. While a site was kindly offered at a reasonable price, it was found to have no buildings or utilities. An alternative site was found where everything was in place including a mast tuned for 648KHz. A commissioning test proved that all systems were operating to the satisfaction of Ofcom. Full time tests are now taking place and reception reports may be sent to: http://www.radiocaroline.co.uk/#am_reception.html

BBC World Service - Waveguide

Among the shows is Back to Basics: Operating a Short Wave Radio - A six-part series on everything you need to know to enjoy short wave radio. Part one: technical advice on choosing a shortwave radio set. First, do you want digital or analogue tuning, other wavelengths and even an alarm clock? What does 'sensitivity', 'selectivity', 'image rejection', and 'strong signal handling' mean?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p033jw9n>



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Use this link to renew your membership for another year

www.irts.ie/renew

Payments are processed through PayPal's secure servers, and any credit card may be used

Contests – December 2017

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) : [RSGB HF Contests](#) : [UKEICC Contests](#) : [IRTS Contests](#)

Fri 1	22:00	42 hours	ARRL 160m CW	160m, work W/VE, log ARRL/RAC section
Sat 9	00:00	48 hours	ARRL 10m SSB/CW	10m, work everyone, send serial, log State from W/VE/XE
Fri 15	20:00	4 hours	Russian 160m SSB/CW	160m, work everyone, exchange serials, log Russian Oblasts
Sat 16	14:00	24 hours	Croatian CW	160-10m, work everyone, exchange serials
Tue 26	08:30	2.5 hours	DARC Xmas Contest SSB/CW	80-40m, work everyone, send serial, log DOK, QSY Rule
Sat 30	00:00	24 hours	RAC Winter (all modes)	160-2m, work everyone, send serial, log province from VE
Sat 30	15:00	24 hours	Stew Perry Topband CW	160m, exchange four character grid (e.g. IO62)
Every Wed		60 mins	CWops Mini Contests	160-10m, three separate CW contests

Reminder: [IRTS 80m Counties Contest](#) (SSB/CW) Mon 1 Jan 2018, 15:00 UTC

List compiled by Joe [EI7GY](#) (All times are UTC)