

C.D.A.R.S.

January 2026

CHESHAM & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Marconi Wireless Stations

We meet the 2nd Wednesday each month at The Golden Eagle Pub in Ashley Green and every 4th Wednesday each month at the Ashley Green Memorial Hall, Ashley Green, HP5 3PP



Technical

Getting Started in Data
Modes - FT 8 Part 2.

Regulars

*Dates For Your Diary
*Radio Rally Dates
*Contest Results

Want to write something for the newsletter?
Then you can contact me on
cdarsnews@gmail.com

Can't find that elusive part or have anything for sale?
Why not drop me an email and put it in
'For sale and wanted'.

Learn About.....

What are you interested in? Here are a few useful links:



FISTS CW Club

Promoting Morse Code for 36 years 1987-2023

<https://fists.co.uk>

VK3TBS

Learn About VARAC

<https://vk3tbs.home.blog/2024/03/06/vara-varac/>

Essex Ham

FT-8 Basics

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/ft8-basics-explained>

Essex Ham

What is PSK31? The Basics.

<https://www.essexham.co.uk/psk31-the-basics>

Welcome to LCWO.net

Learn Morse Code (CW) Online!

<https://lcwo.net/>

Electronic Notes

What is RTTY? The Basics.

https://www.electronics-notes.com/articles/ham_radio/digimode/s/what-is-rtty-radio-teletype.php

Meshtastic and MeshCore

Information and Downloads to build your own LoRa Node or Repeater

<https://meshtastic.org/>
<https://meshcore.co.uk/>



Morse Code by Ray Burlingame-Goff (SK - 29th July 2021)

<http://www.g4fon.net/>

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Cover Photos: *Guglielmo Giovanni Maria Marconi. - Courtesy .By Pach Brothers - This image is available from the United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division. Copyright : United States Library of Congress's Prints and Photographs division.*

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	- Guy Plunkett (M0GUY)		- John Hall (G0ODQ)		- Peter Holliday (M8PTH)
	- Roger Fellows (M8TGU)				

All the above are members of the committee and can be contacted on cdars-committee@googlegroups.com

Newsletter Editor - Roger Fellows (M8TGU) newsletter submissions to: cdarsnews@gmail.com

Welcome

Welcome to the January 2026 edition of the CDARS newsletter. Happy New Year to you all. Hopefully there are not too many headaches from last night's celebrations.

The first thing to remind you all of is the CDARS Annual General Meeting set for Wednesday 28th January to be held at the Ashley Green Memorial Hall from 8pm. This year the plan is to have all the necessary reports etc first and then once that is completed we will have an open forum. This will allow all members to suggest subjects they are interested in and we can then maybe expand on them at the formal meetings at the hall. In the meantime get your thinking caps on. Watch out for further emails regarding the AGM from Malcolm.

Also, what plans do you have radio wise for the coming year? Whether it is upgrades to your shack, small projects or major upgrades we would love to hear what you get up to so that we can share via the newsletter to everyone else.

Whatever amateur radio brings you year have a great 2026.

Roger M8TGU



Roger M8TGU

Chairmans Ramble

Welcome to 2026! I wonder what sort of year it is going to be?

Have we all made New-Year resolutions? I seem to remember that this time a year ago I had planned to do more general operating & DX chasing in 2025 & maybe a bit less contesting? Well, that did not really work out, as our combined team of Chesham & Northampton quickly found ourselves unexpectedly leading the UKAC's! (Helped by the Parallel Lines group migrating to the General Category!) We finished the year after a close run against Hereford with the overall top spot for 'Local Clubs'. This was however under the Northampton banner, even though CDARS & friends were the major contributors. Since both clubs are 'flying solo' in 2026, which will probably mean we will be a bit farther down the-list; maybe I will get time to do that 'General' (Non-contesting) operation? There will not be the same pressure to show-up for every session. Time will tell? I just hope that I have not completely missed the best of the Sun-Spot max?



Dave G8FMC

Before Christmas I stumbled on an example of extreme dedication (to radio) in the Autumn Series 80m contest, From David G3TBK (M7W Short Contest Call) who was overall winner. In the comments column for the final CW leg he wrote this:

"Poor inter-G condx, EU stations strong. Good activity level. Agn operating whilst having 46 hour chemo infusion! Hopfully brain not too addled!"

I assume the drip was in his non-CW arm? Also the brain clearly was NOT addled as he won with 142 QSO's in 1.5 hrs. David G3TBK has won many trophy's over the years, is not a youngster & is a highly respected top operator. He obviously plans on not 'going-down' without a fight. He is often also out /P from a hill-top, even in winter weather! What a man.

I borrowed the club's newest radio (the ex G0VFW Icom IC-9700) to see if I could hear anything on 1296MHz during the UKAC session of Tuesday 16th December from my QTH.

Please note that the clubs radios are not exclusively for contest use & it is possible for members to have a short-term loan for a try-out. Speak to Malcolm or myself about this if you would want to do this. Warning: there is NO insurance cover for the radios at members homes (or out & about) so any such loan is on the basis of 'You break it, you pay to fix it'!

Some Yagi antennas will work reasonably on their 3rd harmonic, although with a split main front lobe, about +/- 30 deg. (It all depends on the type of driven element & matching technique). Several of us have worked on 70cm using a 2m beam, with reasonable success. The same technique should work on 23cm if using a 70cm beam? Malcolm (G3ZNU) managed a few QSO's in a 23cm event a couple of months ago using this technique. My 16 element 70cm Powabeam (G4CQM design) should also work? However I think the straight-through match of my 70cm mast-head preamp might be not great on 23cm? I seemed to have about 2.5:1 SWR! So tx was just a very brief test. I did spend just over an hour tuning & listening though. The conclusion is that my many trees probably make it impractical to consider 23cm from this location?! I did copy about 8 stations, but almost all did not move the 'S meter'. Some of these stations are S9 + 40-60dB on 2m & 70cm, so even with the inefficient antenna I think the path-loss due to the many tall trees at my QTH is a bit dire on 23cm? Ah well it was worth a try!

continued.....

I did use the 9700 for the club net the next day on 144.320MHz & it seemed that the RX was very quiet with good sensitivity? (maybe slightly better than my Transverter system, with its P.A.?) The operating logic of the 9700 is quite different to the Yeasu FTDX-10, although after a short while I was beginning to like it rather better than the FTDX-10! At least when you select a menu, it stays on-screen until you cancel it, rather than dropping-out after just a few seconds!

The panel layout is much better than the FTDX-10 in my opinion, as with that I constantly have issues when using the outer VFO dial, with inadvertent touching of the buttons grouped around that large knob. I still do not really like 'Touch-screen's' & menus though! I know I am an old Luddite who prefers dedicated knobs to twiddle for each function! I shall shortly be returning the 9700, but enjoyed the time to 'play' with it.

73 all, Dave K
G8FMC (Chairman & Contest Coordinator)

Contests/Operating

More on the changes in contesting for CDARS for 2026:

As detailed last month both CDARS & Northampton will be 'Sailing under their own flag' for 2026. However we will still be accepting 'Associate members' contributions, particularly for the weekend events. This is a free (i.e. no membership fee is required) category, primarily for non members that would like to participate in club contests & contribute their points to CDARS. If there is no formal participation in any particular event by Northampton, then those individuals are still very welcome to contribute their points to CDARS if they so wish. We do NOT want to cause any conflict with the team at NRC though.

Another change is a move of our VMP (Virtual meeting point) which I have done. Our previous VMP was our actual meeting point at Ashley green Hall. For 'Local Clubs' there is a requirement that all registered contributors home QTH's are within 80Km of the VMP. Roger (G3MEH) is hoping to continue to support CDARS as an Associate Member in his new location of IO92KO. To get this within the 80Km limit, we needed to move our VMP a bit north. We have decided to opt for Buckingham, which comfortably embraces Roger's QTH & also any folks from the Hinkley club (who were part of our combined group with NRC for part of 2025). To the south this still reaches to central northern London, which covers all known contributors in that area. The new VMP locator will be IO92MA & the post code MK18 1PL. This is actually the QTH of the late Geoff G3NPI, who used to be one of our Associate Members. I see it as a little tribute to Geoff for his input over his last few years. He was a dedicated stalwart of 4m SSB, even operating mobile using a large 'Halo' antenna! Interestingly the boundary line between IO91 & IO92 runs right through the centre of Buckingham, with the G3NPI location on the hill just to the north.

The final change for 2026 going forward is that Malcolm has re-titled the 'CDARS-NRC Contesting' email group to just 'CDARS Contesting'. All previous members of the old group are accepted onto the new group. (You may not see any change in the actual email address. Apparently that is more problematic, without everyone having to alter their email client address book! Just click 'Reply' & all should be well)

The UKAC for 2025: (under the NRC banner)

[Did you spot my Freudian error last month when I typed NRS instead of NRC!]

Not quite all the final scores in but we (well NRC) have fairly comfortably won the Local Club category. (I think Hereford 'threw-in-the-towel' for the last few sessions, when they realised they could not catch us?) That will mean a Trophy presentation at the RSGB Convention in October 2026 under the Northampton banner, although Chesham & friends contributed a bit more than half the total scores. We will technically be rivals for 2026.

NRC & Friends = 5183pts (Normalised 1000pts on all bands except SHF)
Hereford = 3957pts
Spalding = 3182pts

80m Autumn Series: (CDARS)

The final outcome was our team in 11th place, out of 36. Not too bad with just 5 of us. John G4CZB was 4th overall out of 323. The fact that John is a minority masochist and only uses 10W on all 3 modes, means he was actually runner-up in the 10W category. He won the CW mode, runner up on SSB & winner of the 10W unassisted Data mode. Great effort John.

AFS Superleague: (CDARS and friends)

The 144MHz event was on the 7th December where we fielded almost 2 teams with 7 of us in total. Our 'A' team came in 3rd place out of 29, which maintains our 3rd place overall so far. Our 2 lead stations were Matt G0XDI with 109 QSO's & Phil M0NVS/P with 107 QSO's. Phil got a normalised score of 1,000 pts as the highest scoring 2nd place team member of all entrants. He also bagged 2ndplace in the 'Open' section. That Bovingdon farm site does seem to work quite well! Great effort Phil. Charlie G0SKA & John G0ODQ completed our 'A' team, with an overall score of 3,131 normalised points; not far behind Parallel lines on 3,400 & Camb-Hams on 3,216. Addiscombe lead the General section with 2,717 pts; so it looks like we may have won if we had entered the General section?

The 40m/80m sessions are in January 2026:

Saturday 3rd Jan CW (Anyone available to operate my station? Marc?)

Sunday 11th Jan Datamodes (PSK63 & RTTY, i.e. old fashioned Data modes!)

Saturday 17th SSB

All are 1300 – 1700 UTC. I hope a few club members are able to support these? Other HF Contests:

I used our new club call of G3CHR in the 9A DX contest the weekend before Christmas, but will save comments on that until next time.

73, Dave K, G8FMC

Marconi Wireless Stations

A list of early wireless telegraphy radio stations of the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co. Guglielmo Marconi developed the first practical radio transmitters and receivers between 1895 and 1901. His company, the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Co, started in 1897, dominated the early radio industry. During the first two decades of the 20th century the Marconi Co. built the first radiotelegraphy communication stations, which were used to communicate with ships at sea and exchange commercial telegram traffic with other countries using Morse code. Many of these have since been preserved as historic places.

Types of station

The first radio transmitters could not transmit audio (sound) like modern AM and FM transmitters, and instead transmitted information by radiotelegraphy; the transmitter was turned on and off rapidly using a switch called a telegraph key, creating different length pulses of radio waves ("dots" and "dashes") which spelled out text messages in Morse code. Marconi used several types of station:



A 1921 photograph of Albert Einstein being given a tour of The New Brunswick Marconi Radio Station in Somerset, New Jersey (then part of RCA) along with RCA officers and leading scientists and engineers in the electrical and radio fields from RC transmitter to the huge flattop wire antenna are visible.

Coastal stations

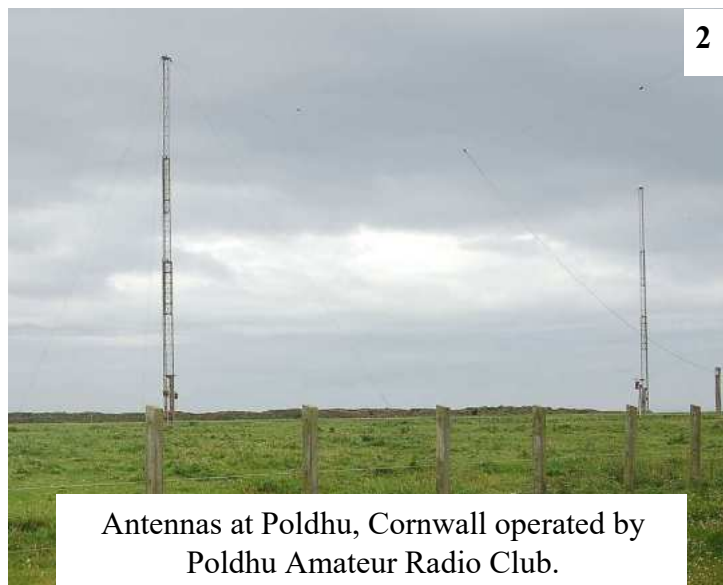
Coastal stations communicated with wireless stations on ships, providing navigation and weather information and relayed communications from ships to other coastal stations and through telegraph systems. Ships were allowed to communicate on three frequencies: 500, 660, and 1000 kHz

Transoceanic stations

Transoceanic wireless telegraph stations were large high powered stations with huge antenna structures, with output power of 100 kW to one megawatt. Industrial countries built worldwide networks of these stations to exchange telegram traffic with other nations at intercontinental distances and communicate with a country's overseas colonies. To achieve daylight communication at such long ranges they used frequencies in the very low frequency (VLF) band, from 50 to as low as 15 – 20 kHz. They transmitted Morse code at high speed, 100 - 200 words per minute, using automated paper tape readers.

Marconi's Poldhu Wireless Station, Poldhu, Cornwall.

The site is famous as the location of Poldhu Wireless Station, Guglielmo Marconi's transmitter for the first transatlantic radio message on 12 December 1901. Marconi received the transmission on Signal Hill, St. John's, Newfoundland. The station was built partly on cliff top pastures that had been enclosed in 1871 and partly on medieval fields belonging to a nearby settlement, Angrouse. The fifty acre (200,000 m²) plot was bought in 1900 and building work ran from October 1900 to January 1901.[5] During the work two Bronze Age barrows were flattened and a bronze dagger and urn were recovered.



To design the spark transmitter, the first high power radio transmitter in the world, Marconi hired Prof. John Ambrose Fleming, University College, London. The original twenty mast circular aerial was destroyed in a storm on 17 September 1901. Marconi hastily built a temporary aerial of 50 wires suspended in a fan shape from a cable between two 200 foot (61 m) masts. Fleming estimated the transmitter's radiated power was around 10–12 kW. The frequency used is not known precisely, as Marconi did not measure wavelength or frequency, but it was between 166 and 984 kHz, probably around 500 kHz. After the experiment the original mast layout was not rebuilt, it was replaced with a four mast design, 215 feet (66 m) high and forming a 200-foot (61 m) square.

Marconi later used the site for his shortwave experiments, with transmissions by Charles Samuel Franklin to Marconi on the yacht "Elettra". in the Cape Verde Islands in 1923 and in Beirut in 1924. The groundbreaking results of these experiments took the world by surprise and quickly resulted in his development of the Beam Wireless Service for the British General Post Office. The service opened from the Bodmin Beam Station to Canada on 25 October 1926, from the "Tetney Beam Station". to Australia on 8 April 1927, from the "Bodmin Beam Station". Archived from the original on 16 May 2020. to South Africa on 5 July 1927, to India on 6 September 1927 and shortly afterwards to Argentina, Brazil and the United States.

The station closed in 1934 and was demolished in 1937. Six acres (24,000 m²) were given to the National Trust in 1937 with the rest of the site added in 1960. The site has a stone monument pillar, erected in November 1937 by the Marconi Company, and a number of concrete foundations and earth structures also remain. In 2001 the Marconi Centre, a new museum / meeting building, was opened close to the site by the efforts of the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club, the National Trust, and Marconi plc.

The substantial building near the site, originally the Poldhu Hotel, built in 1899, is currently a care home. The visitors' book shows that Marconi stayed there in May and August 1901 Marconi also built an earlier, smaller, experimental wireless station nearby at Housel Bay.

Source: Wikipedia.

Photo Attributes:

- 1: *By Radio Corporation of America (RCA) Restored by: Bammesk - Hagley Museum and Library,*
2. *Polhdu Cornwall Antennas - By Wusel007 - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0,*

Getting Started with Data Modes - FT 8 Part 2.

In part 1 of this series, published in December 2025 of the CDARS Newsletter, I covered getting your PC synchronised to real time, and downloading and installing the WSJT-X software that the vast majority of people use to operate FT8 (and other similar modes). In Part 1 the audio connection to the rig used the loudspeaker – microphone method, a simple setup just to make sure the software was running correctly.

We now move on to using a direct connection between PC and rig, firstly for the audio connection and secondly for CAT control of RF frequency selection and TX operation. If you have a fairly recent rig (such as the FTdx10, IC7300 etc), these all support USB ports to directly connect a PC. All you need is a Type-A to Type-B USB cable and the physical connection between PC and rig is done. Not only is this simple, but the rig manufacturer has worked out all the isolation requirements so that the rig doesn't disturb the circuits in the PC.

For older rigs that do not have a USB connection it is possible to simply use the microphone input and the loudspeaker / headphone output on the rig and the mic / speaker socket on the PC. But beware going down this path. PCs have very poor RF rejection on their microphone inputs and you will almost inevitably get some odd results. It might cause the PC to crash and lock up – not fatal as it can be restarted but useless for actually making QSOs!

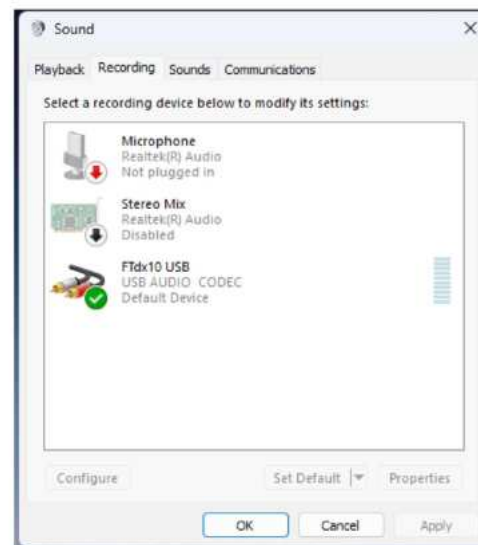
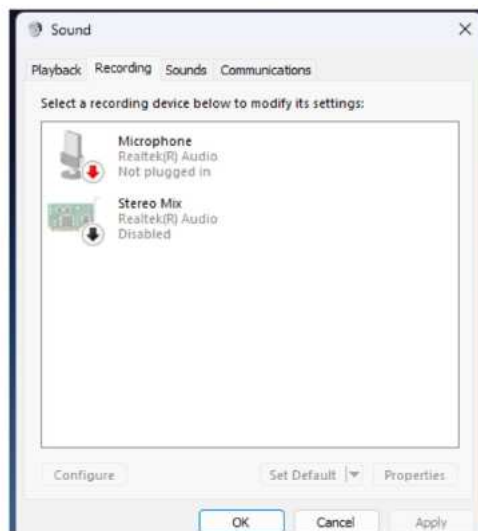
What you need is an interface that provides isolation between the PC world and the RF world. You can either build one yourself, or buy one – which is much easier and less error prone. The interface that I'm familiar with is the Signalink USB from Tigertronics.



Bearing in mind the wide range of audio interfaces on rigs from different manufacturers, Tigertronics have done all the hard work and can supply the appropriate leads and connectors for a wide range of rigs. In addition there's a set of patch connections inside the Signalink box to account for rigs that have the same physical interface socket but use the connector pins differently. I highly recommend it for an easy life, and I used it for some time with a TS2000 to make many FT8 QSOs.

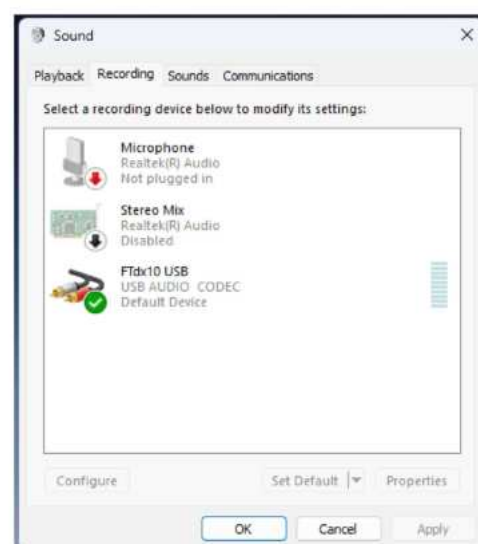
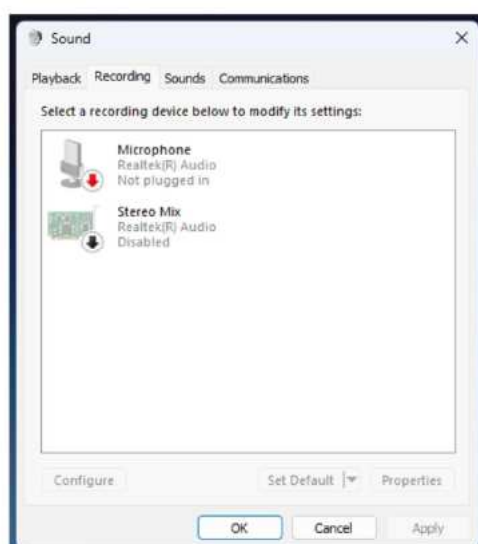
If you use an external interface, what's inside is a USB sound card, so when you plug it into your PC it will appear in the list of sound devices that programs running on the PC (such as WSJT-X) can access. If your rig has a USB interface, the sound card is built into the rig so when you plug the rig into your PC the same thing happens, it will appear in the list of sound devices. The next challenge is to identify which is the correct interface so you can select it in WSJT-X.

Take a look at these two screenshots showing the sound interfaces on my PC. The first shot shows nothing extra plugged in (other than the two screens, each of which have a speaker), the second shows after the FTdx10 is plugged in.



[Note that you have to open Control panel -> Sound to see these screens, which I find much easier to use than the Windows 10 / 11 “replacements”!]

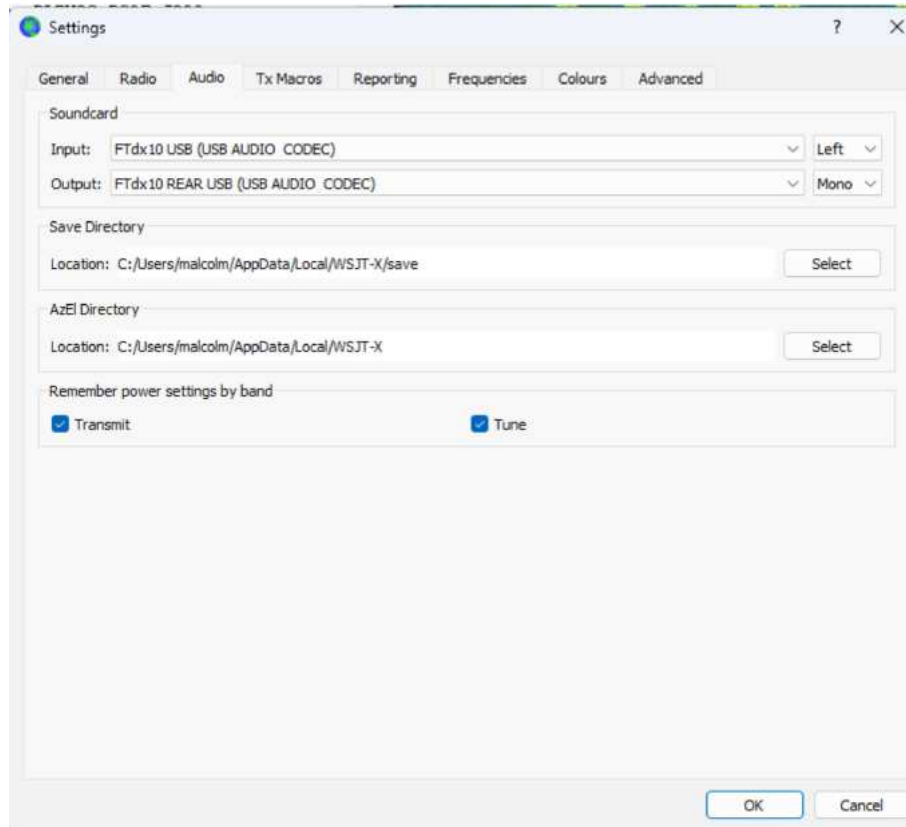
You’ll see that I have renamed the rig interface to “FTdx10 REAR USB”. It makes life so much easier if you do this, which you can do if you click on the Properties button. These two screenshots show the “Playback” settings – which means audio sent FROM the PC TO the external device, i.e. for transmitting. Here’s the equivalent screen shots for the “Recording” direction, i.e. audio FROM the rig INTO the PC:



The extra interface this time is also a “USB AUDIO CODEC” and I remaned this one “FTdx10 USB”. You will also notice that in each case, one of the interfaces is identified as “Default Device”. For initial setup it’s best to make these rig interfaces the Default Device. If it’s not listed as such, right-click on the device and select “Default Device” in the pop-up menu.

Now we know that the interfaces, input and output, are connected and working, and we know their names, start up WSJT-X and head for File -> Settings, and select the Audio tab.

There are two drop-down boxes called Input and Output. Input refers to the connection FROM the rig INTO the PC – so in my configuration that means “FTdx10 (USB AUDIO CODEC)” and Output refers to the connection INTO the rig and FROM the PC – so this time it’s the interface called “FTdx10 REAR USB (USB AUDIO CODEC)”, as below:



That has set up the PC and software, now we need to tell the rig both to send audio to the right place, and to “listen” to the right place when transmitting. Every rig does something just a little bit different when it comes to configuration, and hence this article can’t cover how to set up each rig that you might have in your possession. What I can do is show how the FTdx10 is configured, which may give some pointers to how to configure your own rig. If you get stuck, I can highly recommend the excellent books by Andrew Barron ZL3DW, as he covers the sort of real-world configuration settings compared with the rigs’ own handbooks which can be woefully inadequate.

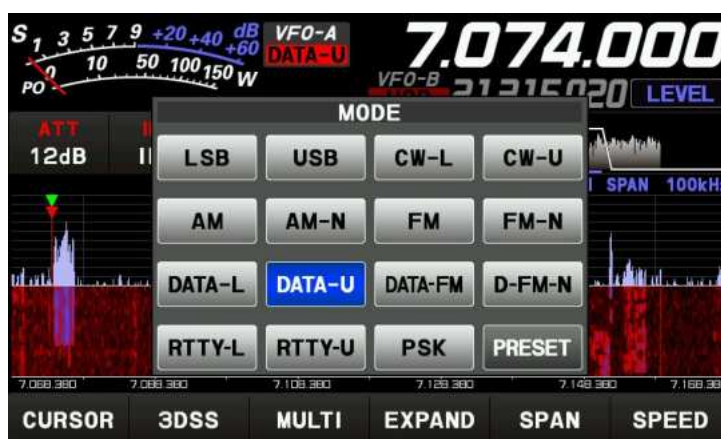
There are two sets of settings you need to configure in the FTdx10. First, head to the Radio Setting – press the Function knob and this appears:



Touch “RADIO SETTING” and make your way to the “MODE PSK/DATA” settings:



Set the “DATA MOD SOURCE” to REAR – this tells the radio that, when keyed to transmit it will take its audio feed from the rear connection. [Note that when you push the microphone PTT it still takes audio from the microphone, this setting is only for data modes.] The “REAR SELECT” is set to “USB”, telling the radio to use the USB connection as the audio source – there is a multi-pin connector at the rear too, but we’re not using that. Finally set “RPTT SELECT” to “RTS” – this will be the control line that the PC uses to tell the radio to go into transmit mode. Press the BACK button(s) to get back to the normal display. Press the MODE button and this set of options appears:



The mode we need for FT8 and other “audio data” modes is “DATA-U”. The “U” in this case means Upper Sideband (hence the other option, “DATA-L” which is generally not used in amateur radio contexts).

Selecting DATA-U sets up the radio to wait for a transmit command on the RTS data line we’ve set above, and to accept audio on the USB connection that we also set up above. The final part is to turn the WIDTH knob to set the RX bandwidth to 3000 and the SHIFT knob to 1200. You’ll find that’s the limit for both settings. This opens up the full receiver passband (some FT8 signals will be well up the audio passband) and shifts the passband to the right place.

Now the TX and RX sections of the FTdx10 are all set up, and the last part of the configuration jigsaw is to get CAT control working. I’m going to hold this off to a third part of this series of articles as CAT control is a field of its own, with plenty to learn and plenty of pitfalls! See you next month.

Malcolm G3ZNU

Contest Calendar for January and February 2026

January - HF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Sat	03 Jan	1300-1700	AFS 80m - 40m CW
Sat	11 Jan	1300-1700	AFS 80m - 40m Data
Sat	17 Jan	1300-1700	AFS 80m - 40m SSB
Mon	19 Jan	2000-2200	RSGB 1st FT4 Contest

January - VHF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Tue	06 Jan	1900-1955	144MHz FMAC
Tue	06 Jan	2000-2230	144MHz UKAC
Wed	07 Jan	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	07 Jan	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	08 Jan	2000-2230	50MHz UKAC
Tue	13 Jan	1900-1955	432MHz FMAC
Tue	13 Jan	1900-1955	432MHz UKAC
Wed	14 Jan	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	14 Jan	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	15 Jan	2000-2230	70 MHz UKAC
Tue	20 Jan	2000-2230	1.3GHz UKAC
Tue	27 Jan	1930-2230	SHF UKAC

February - HF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	02 Feb	2000-2130	80m CC SSB
Wed	11 Feb	2000-2130	80m CC Data
Sat	14 Feb	2000-2300	1st 1.8MHz Contest
Mon	23 Feb	2000-2200	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	26 Feb	2000-2130	80m CC CW

February - VHF

Day	Date	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Tue	03 Feb	1900-1955	144MHz FMAC
Tue	03 Feb	2000-2230	144MHz UKAC
Wed	04 Feb	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	04 Feb	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Sun	08 Feb	0900-1300	432MHz AFS
Tue	10 Feb	1900-1955	432MHz FMAC
Tue	10 Feb	2000-2230	432MHz UKAC
Wed	11 Feb	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	11 Feb	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	12 Feb	2000-2230	50MHz UKAC
Tue	17 Feb	2000-2230	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	19 Feb	2000-2230	70MHz UKAC
Tue	24 Feb	1930-2230	SHF UKAC

Dates For Your Diary



CDARS Net and Club Meetings Dates

January 2026

7th - Club Net on 2m SSB - 144.320 USB

14th - Informal Meeting at The Golden Eagle, Ashley Green

21st - Club Net on 2m SSB - 144.320 USB

28th - Chesham & District Amateur Radio Society AGM at The Ashley Green Memorial Hall. 8pm

Listed below are dates of RSGB, UK and International contests for January 2026

WW PMC Contest	1200Z, Jan 3 to 1200Z, Jan 4
EUCW 160m Contest	2000Z, Jan 3 to 0700Z, Jan 4
YB DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Jan 10
DARC 10-Meter Contest	0900Z-1059Z, Jan 11
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Jan 10 to 2359Z, Jan 11
Hungarian DX Contes	1200Z, Jan 17 to 1159Z, Jan 18
CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW	2200Z, Jan 23 to 2200Z, Jan 25
Winter Field Day	1600Z, Jan 24 to 2159Z, Jan 25
UBA DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 31 to 1300Z, Feb 1

Full details and more contests at: <https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Please double check dates, start/end times etc in good time prior to the event.

Radio Rally Dates.

Full details of the events are available in Radcom & the RSGB website.

January 2026

25th – Lincoln Short Wave Club Winter Radio Rally, The Festival Hall, Caistor Road, Market Rasen, LN8 3HT.

February 2026

8th– Red Rose Winter Rally, Mather Hall, Mather Lane, Leigh, Lancs. WN7 2PJ

15th - Mid Cheshire Amateur Radio Society Radioactive Fair 026, Nantwich Civic Hall, Cheshire, CW5 5DG

March 2026

1st - Exeter Radio Rally, The Kenn Centre, EX6 7UE.

7th -Lagan Valley Amateur Radio Society Annual Rally, Hillsborough Village Hall, Ballynahinch Road,BT26 6AR.

15th – Ripon and District Amateur Radio Society Rally, Great Ouseburn Village Hall, Lightmire Ln, Great Ouseburn, York YO26 9RL.

22nd - Callington Radio and Electronics Rally, Town Hall, New Road, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 7BE.

22nd - Dover Amateur Radio Club Rally, Eastry Village Hall, High Street, Eastry, Kent CT13 0QB.

April 2026

12th - Northeren Amateur Radio Societies Association Exhibition, Northbreck Castle Exhibition Centre, Blackpool, FY2 9AA

October 2026

11th - Annual Hornsea Rally, Driffield Showground YO25 9FB

25th - Galashiels Radio & Computer Rally, The Volunteer Hall, St. Johns Street, Galashiels, TD1 3JX.

(All information courtesy of Radcom & the RSGB website)



For Sale and Wanted

SK sale of the shack contents of the late Bryan M0IHY (Items with Dave G8FMC)

ITEM	ASKING PRICE or O.V.N.O.
1. Power Mag 145 – large magnetic mount + cable (new £62) New & boxed.	£40
2. Comet CHA-250HD/BXII Multi-Band HF Vertical Antenna (new £350) 250W SSB 75W Data. See March 2024 PW review. As new,unused	£220
3. Moonraker MRQ750 2m/70cm Mobile whip (new £35) Unused as new	£25
4. HF Mobile/portable antenna PL259 fitting e.g. large mag-mount? Unused	SOLD
5. Modified Cobweb antenna (Polish) (new £200)	£70
6. Sangean ATS-909X2 all-band portable receiver £225 ish new boxed	£150
7. QRM Eliminator X-phase 1-30MHz - £45 new	£25
8. Kent Straight key	£65
9. CW Keyer TC 701 - £70 new	£45
10. Soldering Station (basic) 60W	Offers
11. IGEN Max regenerative receiver. eBay US has an unbuilt kit at £160.	£50
12. Lead-free solder & cleaner (in bag)	Offers
13. SWR meter Moonraker SWR-300 120-500MHz £35 new	SOLD
14. Austcol Radiation Meter MT525 -£25 online average price new.	£10
15. Signalink USB sound Card 8pm. £120 new	SOLD
16. Metro VNA in case (£270 new)	£175
18. Prepp Comm multi-band morse transceiver. Approx £358 new.	£225
19. MFJ Super Hi-Q Loop Remote Control . Unknown model.	?
20. QRP Kits EFHW Tuner	Offers

Please initially contact Dave G8FMC if interested:- g8fmc547@gmail.com