

C.D.A.R.S.

February 2026

CHESHAM & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CDARS WhatsApp Community

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 3.

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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Chairman	- Dave Keston (G8FMC)	Secretary	- Malcolm Appleby (G3ZNU)	Treasurer	- Matt Whitchurch (M1DTG)
	- Guy Plunkett (M0GUY)		- John Hall (G00DQ)		- 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 February 2026 edition of the CDARS newsletter.

I'm writing this just a couple of days after our AGM and I thought it might be an idea to cover a few things from the meeting for those members that were unable to attend.

After the formal part of the meeting rather than have time for "Any Other Business" (AOB) the committee decided this year to have an open forum instead where we could announce various ideas to the membership. So for those unable to attend listed below are a few items that were discussed.



Roger M8TGU

1. Ideas for our formal meetings at Ashley Green. While we have the next couple of months sorted we would like to hear from members what they would like to have covered. Is there something specific you would like us to try and arrange? Is there something you would like to give a talk on? It doesn't need to be about radio it could be anything. Let us know.

2. CDARS WhatsApp Community. (See page 7) While we have setup the basics of this club community is there anything you would like to be added? A specific section you would like to see? Again let us know.

3. Club Shack. This is a bit more involved than the above and a long term plan. The basic idea is to have a club shack that anyone can use either actually on site or maybe via a remote link. Initially we would need to find an ideal site. Do you know of anywhere that could be suitable? Ideally it would centre around the Chesham area but if the perfect site was available elsewhere then it could be considered.

4. Newsletter Articles. I know I keep pestering you all for articles but I've just about done Wikipedia to death! It would be very appreciated if you could come up with something for the newsletter. Do you have a project that you could share even if its only one you have copied from a YouTube video. Most of us do a bit of 'our own thing' when it comes to projects. Or maybe as for the formal meeting presentations if you have another hobby that members may be interested in why not share it.

5. JOTA. We have looked at this a couple of times and would really like to get CDARS involved with the Scout or Guides movement for the Jamboree in October each year. Do you have any contacts or involvement in this area. We would love to know.

The committee look forward to hearing from you regarding any of the above items.. In the meantime I hope you enjoy this months newsletter.

Roger M8TGU

Chairmans Ramble

We have just had the AGM, where despite invites we did not have any new offers of new committee members. The old committee continue to stand for another year. We now have a few new members from the winding-up of the Aylesbury club (AVRS) last autumn.

Full minutes of the AGM will be circulated by Malcolm our secretary in due course.

I seem to have been suffering from 'winter blues' or something, with a severe lack of enthusiasm & commitment to tackle any of my many jobs/projects that await my attention. I look forward to the spring & a bit more sunshine!



Dave G8FMC

I have in the past been asked by some members 'why use Transverters' for VHF & UHF, instead of a dedicated VHF rig like the FT991A or IC-9700? I may not have answered that question particularly well? I stumbled recently on the QRZ.com page of Tim G6GEI of the Milton Keynes club. (Known to some of you, since he helped us win the VHF Field Day in July 2025) The following is copied from his Biography which sums things up rather well:

"FT-DX10 - I use this when I'm serious about contesting for 6/4 and other bands with Transverters. It is great for picking out the weak signals when there are strong nearby ones, as is the case on contest nights."

Also a little farther down:

"Q5 Transverters for 2m / 70cm for use with the FT-DX10. The combo massively out-perform the IC-9700 on receive and the TX is apparently cleaner too."

The Yaesu FTDX-10 has a 'hybrid' RX front-end, similar to the FTDX-101 & Elecraft K3s, which is considered by many to be the best approach for optimum dynamic range. Q5 Transverters are the best available from the USA & up there with the Khune from DB6NT & the ME2T from M&E in Europe.

Club member Phil M0NV5 has also found that an IC-7300, with low-level output mod, plus Transverter, out performs the IC-9700. At home he uses an IC-7610 (fairly top-end HF TCVR) + TVTR which is even better! A fairly top-end HF Transceiver is also likely to have more features and filtering options, which are then available on whatever VHF/UHF band one Transverts to/from.

That said the IC9700 & IC-7300 are remarkable radios with good general performance & many features that will satisfy most operators. The weakest point is probably wide-band transmitted noise. So, used with a linear, plus large antenna, from a hill-top is likely to cause other ops on nearby hills some serious issues! Barefoot with modest antennas is fine though. (BTW the FT991A is not great on VHF & UHF either & the old IC-910 was awful!) On paper the new IC-7300 MK2 although still a pure SDR (Software Defined Radio) has improved performance which could be almost as good as the FTDX-10?

Here endeth this months technical lesson!

We had some very good auroral propagation towards the end of January, which I completely missed! (Another new year resolution; monitor the propagation web sites?)

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

Contests/Operating

The UKAC final results 2025: (under the NRC banner)

The adjudicated score finally arrived, with no change to positions.

NRC & Friends = 5183pts (Normalised 1000pts on all bands except SHF)

Hereford = 4009pts

Spalding = 3229pts

That will mean 2 Trophies (see below) presented 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.

A quote from adjudicator Pete G4CLA's summing up of the year (2025):

"The Northampton RC pushed up from second place in 2024 (in the disguise of Chesham & DARS) to top the table in the Local Clubs Section this year, with Hereford ARS moving up from third to second. Northampton scored the maximum 1000 points in all but the SHF events, which was won by Spalding & DARS. They are therefore awarded both the Bolton Wireless Club Trophy (as overall winners) and the G6NB Trophy (as 144MHz band winners)".

UKAC's 2026: (CDARS + Associate members only)

We (CDARS) have made a flying start to 2026 with winning both the 144MHz & 432MHz sessions, also 2nd place on 50MHz behind Guildford, giving us a (temporary?) 1st place. Hereford have not fielded their 1st team at all yet?!

80m CC Series:

This kicks off on 2nd Feb with the first SSB session. I will be putting my points to NRC for this unless we have a significant team from CDARS?

AFS Superleague: (CDARS and friends)

The 40m/80m sessions are now over with mixed outcomes:

Saturday 3rd Jan CW: Marc G5TEA operated my station, with 500W on both bands. We had an issue with my EFHW, so after losing time tracing the cause, he completed most of the event on about 350W to my 40m Vertical & 80m Inverted L antennas! Thus Marc's 187 was not quite what we had hoped for! He was looking to make 200+ if possible. John G4CZB did better with 265 & Malcolm using G3CHR made 154 with just 100W. The overall position was 15/41 which was 2nd place for a 3 man team.

Sunday 11th Jan Datamodes: For this event we managed a full team of 4 with Jason G7LII from Northampton joining us. Result: 14th out of 49.

Saturday 17th Jan was the SSB session: Also a team of 4; John G4CZB, Phil M0N (M0NVS), Jason G7LII & your scribe using M0K. Result: 10th out of 42. Now 4th overall.

The final session is the 432MHz on Sunday 8th Feb from 0900 – 1300 UTC, just SF & O.

73, Dave K, G8FMC

CDARS WhatsApp Community

CDARS WhatsApp Community

The CDARS Committee have recently set up a WhatsApp “Community” for club members to use (thanks to Guy M0GUY for this!) and the Committee have been using it with their own Group within the Community for quick committee conversations.

At the AGM in January the WhatsApp Community was launched it to all members, and you are cordially invited to join the main “General” Group.

We envisage that the Group will be used for reminders of meetings, co-ord for events, and maybe even alerts to good radio conditions. We don't expect there too much chatter on the group so don't be worried about getting overloaded with masses of messages. And if it does get too noisy, you can always leave the Group at any time.

Within the Community there's flexibility for extra more specialist Groups – such as Morse practice Group, Contesting Group, Brill Windmill and the like. But more on that later, as it develops.

To join the General Group, scan the QR code below with your phone and ask to be added to the Group – one of the Group Admins will quickly let you in.

General
WhatsApp group



We chose to use WhatsApp since many people already use it for either person-to-person communication or group communication.

Incidentally, I recently joined the “VHF Alert UK” group run by Reg, G8VHI. It's all quiet until something happens on the VHF bands – such as Sporadic-E, aurora or tropo, then it gets quite lively. All three modes were going during January, so it did indeed get busy!

Malcolm G3ZNU

Annual CDARS Trophy Awards



Left: The Dennis Kind Shield for services to the Club awarded to Roger M8TGU for his continued provision of the CDARS monthly neswletter.

Right: The G3XZG Tankard awarded to Mark M7EFR for his unstinting help at field day and taking care of club equipment.



Left: Malcolm G3ZNU receiving the Stephenson (G3CLJ) Trophy for providing weekly CW training (Slow Morse) and competing for CDARS in CW contests.

Marconi Wireless Stations

As a continuation from last month's article on Marconi Wireless station, and while Marconi setup stations around the world, he also setup several stations close to home in Ireland.

Ireland

Ireland was, due to its western location, to play a key role in early efforts to send messages initially from ship to shore, and later for transatlantic messages.

Crookhaven, Co. Cork

In 1902, a Marconi telegraphic station was established in the village of Crookhaven, County Cork, Ireland to provide marine radio communications to ships arriving from the Americas. A ship's master could contact shipping line agents ashore to enquire which port was to receive their cargo without the need to come ashore at what was the first port of landfall.

Clifden, Galway

As existing submarine cable operators in the early 1900s had held a monopoly on international telegraph service to Newfoundland, Marconi's first regular transatlantic wireless service was established on 17 October 1907 between Derrygimla Bog, Clifden, Galway, Ireland and Glace Bay, Nova Scotia. An additional Marconi receiving station in Letterfrack, Ireland operated briefly from 1913 until 1917.

Due to destruction caused by the Irish Civil War in 1922, traffic formerly carried at Clifden was permanently redirected via Marconi's new station at Ongar in Essex, a link which remained in service until replaced by the Canadian shortwave beam circuit in October 1926.

On 15 June 1919, the first non-stop transatlantic aeroplane crossing by Capt. John Alcock and Lt. Arthur Brown left Newfoundland and made an unplanned landing at the Marconi site in Clifden, Ireland.

Ballybunion

Despite references in several publications, Ballybunion Station was not built by Marconi, and never operated commercially. The station was built by the Universal Radio Syndicate. Construction started in 1912, but the station had not obtained a commercial licence by the time World War 1 started. The company went into liquidation in 1915. A sister station at Newcastle New Brunswick, built to the same design as Ballybunion, suffered a similar fate. The Marconi Company bought the two stations from the liquidator in 1919, mainly to prevent their use by potential competitors. The stations were not idle in the interim, however, having been appropriated by the British Admiralty almost immediately upon outbreak of the Great War and kept in constant activity as key components of the allied communication system until the Armistice of November 1918. The Marconi Company did not use the stations commercially, and it would appear that the Ballybunion station was only used briefly, in March 1919 for a successful telephony experiment with the Marconi station in Louisbourg, and for communication with the R34 airship in July 1919.

In March 1919, Marconi engineers H.J. Round and W.T. Ditcham made the first east-west transatlantic broadcast of voice, using valve technology, from the Ballybunion station using the callsign YXQ. The first west to east voice transmission had already been achieved by Bell Systems engineers from the US Navy station at Arlington Virginia to the Eiffel Tower in October 1915.

The contents of Clifden and Ballybunion were sold for scrap to a Sheffield-based scrap merchant, Thos. W. Ward in 1925.

Source: Wikipedia.

Getting Started with Data Modes - FT 8 Part 3.

In part 1 of this series I covered getting your PC synchronised to real time, and installing the WSJT-X software that's used to operate FT8 (and other similar modes). In Part 2 I covered the direct connection between PC and rig for audio input and output. In this (possibly final) part I'm looking at CAT control of RF frequency selection and TX operation.

Introduction to CAT

CAT stands for Computer-Aided Transceiver allows a computer to manage transceiver settings, such as frequency, mode, and PTT, using a serial connection (to quote a well-known search engine). The serial connection originally used an RS232 interface but all modern rigs implement a USB interface in recognition that few computers now have an RS232 socket. CAT is bi-directional, which means the PC can send commands to the rig and also read back information.

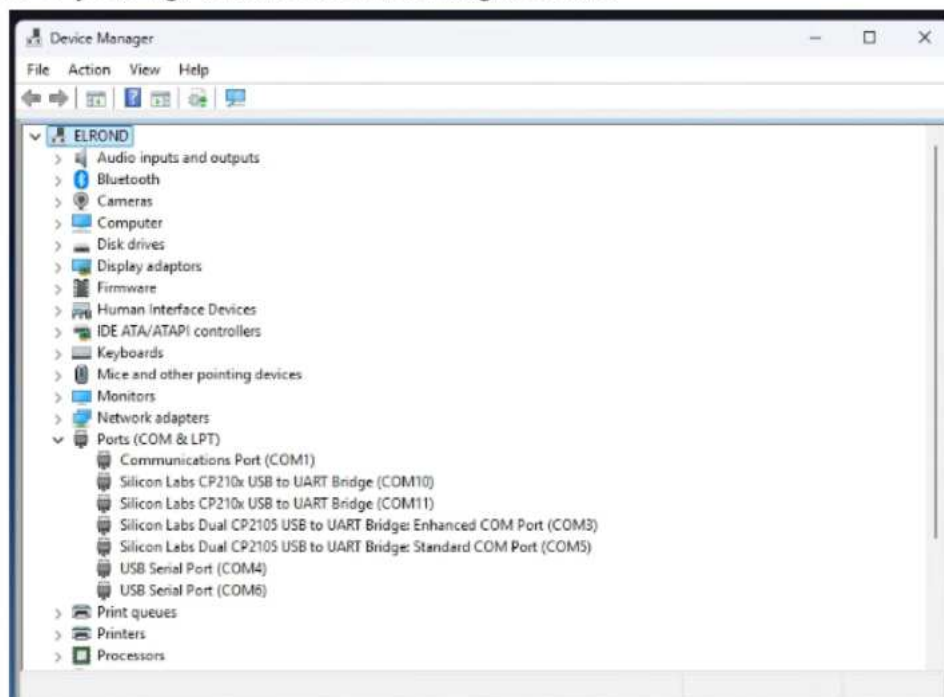
There are a huge range of commands and features available via CAT, mostly defined by the rig manufacturer. Hence there are big differences between the format of commands between the manufacturers, and even between rigs from the same manufacturer. Fortunately for us there is a large library of software drivers that have been written to cover most rigs – old and new – that you are likely to ever use. They are collected together as the Ham Radio Control Library – Hamlib for short. The library gets updated frequently as new rigs come on the market – the current version is Hamlib 4.6.5 – and all are available via GitHub at <https://hamlib.github.io/>.

Fortunately for us, Hamlib gets installed when we download and install WSJT-X, and gets updated when new versions of WSJT-X are released.

Connecting the rig and PC – ports

In the last part of this series we observed that, when connecting the rig to the PC, new audio interfaces (sound cards) appeared. Similarly for CAT control we're going to find new ports and their numbers when we connect the rig. Before connecting the rig, start up Device Manager on your PC (click the Windows button and start typing "Device" and you'll find it). With Device Manager running, see if "Ports" is listed – if so click on the arrow to open it up, if it's not listed don't worry, go ahead and plug in your rig. Now you should find "Ports" listed.

You'll now see a list of the ports that are active on your PC, and you need to identify which relates to the connection to your rig. It will look something like this:

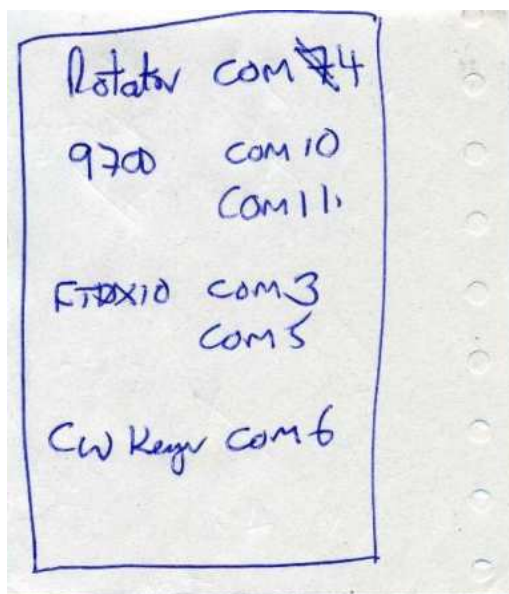


This is from my station PC, and listed are the following:

- *Silicon Labs CP210x USB to UART Bridge (COM10)
- *Silicon Labs CP210x USB to UART Bridge (COM11)
- *Silicon Labs Dual CP2105 USB to UART Bridge: Enhanced COM Port (COM3)
- *Silicon Labs Dual CP2105 USB to UART Bridge: Standard COM Port (COM5)

Also listed are interfaces to my rotator controller (COM4) and WinKey Morse keyer (COM6).

I have two rigs connected, hence the large number of ports in use! COM3 and COM5 are the interfaces to the FTdx10, and COM10 and COM11 are to the IC9700. Your port numbers will be different, and I recommend writing them down on a piece of paper that you can easily find. Here's my scruffy bit of paper which has served me well:



Both rigs have set up two Ports. The first listed is used for main CAT control of frequency, mode etc, the other can be used for keying the TX. You'll see that the FTdx10 explicitly states that the first is the "Enhanced" interface, the other is defined as "Standard". Quite why they use these terms escapes me. The IC9700 doesn't even bother with these terms, so you just have to guess that the lower number is the main one you need.

Setting the CAT data rate

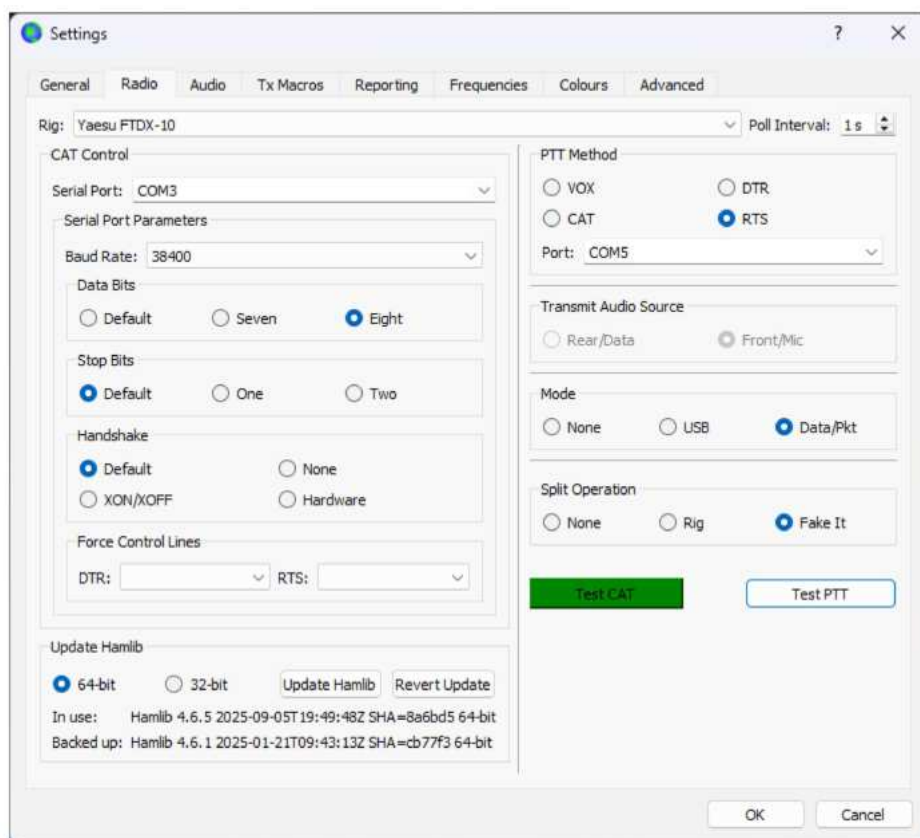
Before configuring the WSJT-X software you need to determine or set the data rate to be used across the USB interface. As with most things, each rig has a different way of setting this, so as before I'll outline where to find it in the FTdx10. Press the FTdx10 Function knob, then touch OPERATION SETTING:



In the GENERAL settings, go to CAT RATE and set it to the highest speed – this makes CAT more responsive. For the FTdx10 this is 38400bps. If any of the settings are other than in the picture above, change them so they are the same. Touch BACK to get out of the settings menus.

Setting up WSJT-X with FTdx10

Start up WSJT-X and go to File -> Settings, and select the Radio tab (you'll remember we did all the settings for Audio last time).



Set the following:

- *Rig: Yaesu FTdx10
- *Serial Port: the number of the Enhanced port we found before
- *Baud Rate: 38400
- *Data Bits: Eight
- *Stop Bits: Default
- *Handshake: Default

*PTT Method:	RTS
*Port:	the number of the Standard port we found before
*Mode:	Data/Pkt (this tells the FTdx10 to take audio from the rear connector)
*Split operation:	Fake It (see below)

Click OK to set all these parameters, then reopen the settings screen.

Click on the Test CAT button and hope. If all is working the button will turn green. Now click on the Test PTT button and the transmitter should key. Click it again and the rig will go back to receive. At this point you can congratulate yourself and open a bottle of red wine.

What's Fake It, you ask?

You'll remember that when we set up audio last time, we opened up the passband to 3000Hz, since FT8 signals might be received at any frequency across the passband. But if you try transmitting high up in the audio range, your audio might not make it through the transmitter audio circuits unscathed. What the Fake It setting does is to look at where in the audio passband you want to transmit, and if it's too high WSJT-X sends a CAT message to the rig to adjust the radio frequency. WSJT-X then works out the difference between the new RF frequency and the original one and subtracts that from the audio frequency sent to the rig. The result is your transmitted signal is on the right frequency but at full power and not mangled by the audio passband.

Problems

If you are not yet at the stage of celebrating with the bottle of red wine, it might be that you have run into some problems. Firstly if there are any other programs that have captured the CAT connection to the rig (typically this might be a logging program) the WSJT-X won't be able to use it, and the Test CAT button will go red. I suggest closing everything, restarting the PC and try again just with WSJT-X.

If when telling WSJT-X to send some data (or maybe testing by clicking on the Tune button on the WSJT-X screen) nothing comes from the transmitter, check if the FTdx10 is set to DATA-U mode. This disables the microphone and takes audio from the USB connection (remember this from last time?).

If you are looking at the WSJT-X waterfall and it doesn't look even from 200Hz all the way up to 3000Hz, you probably haven't set the Width and Shift controls correctly (remember this from Part 1?). Set the RX width to 3000Hz and the Shift to +1200Hz. Make sure you do this when you're in DATA-U mode and the FTdx10 will remember the setting next time, and similarly won't screw you up for SSB QSOs.

All rigs are different

I mentioned before that each manufacturer has their own idea about what CAT commands to use and the format for them. Although HamLib does a lot to help, there are still some differences that creep through and impact on the settings you have to use.

One big difference I've found is with TX keying (PTT). The FTdx10 uses the RTS control line on the "Standard" CAT port, whereas the IC9700 seems to want to use CAT controlled PTT on the main port. I've not dug into the CAT definitions for each rig to look at the differences on this.

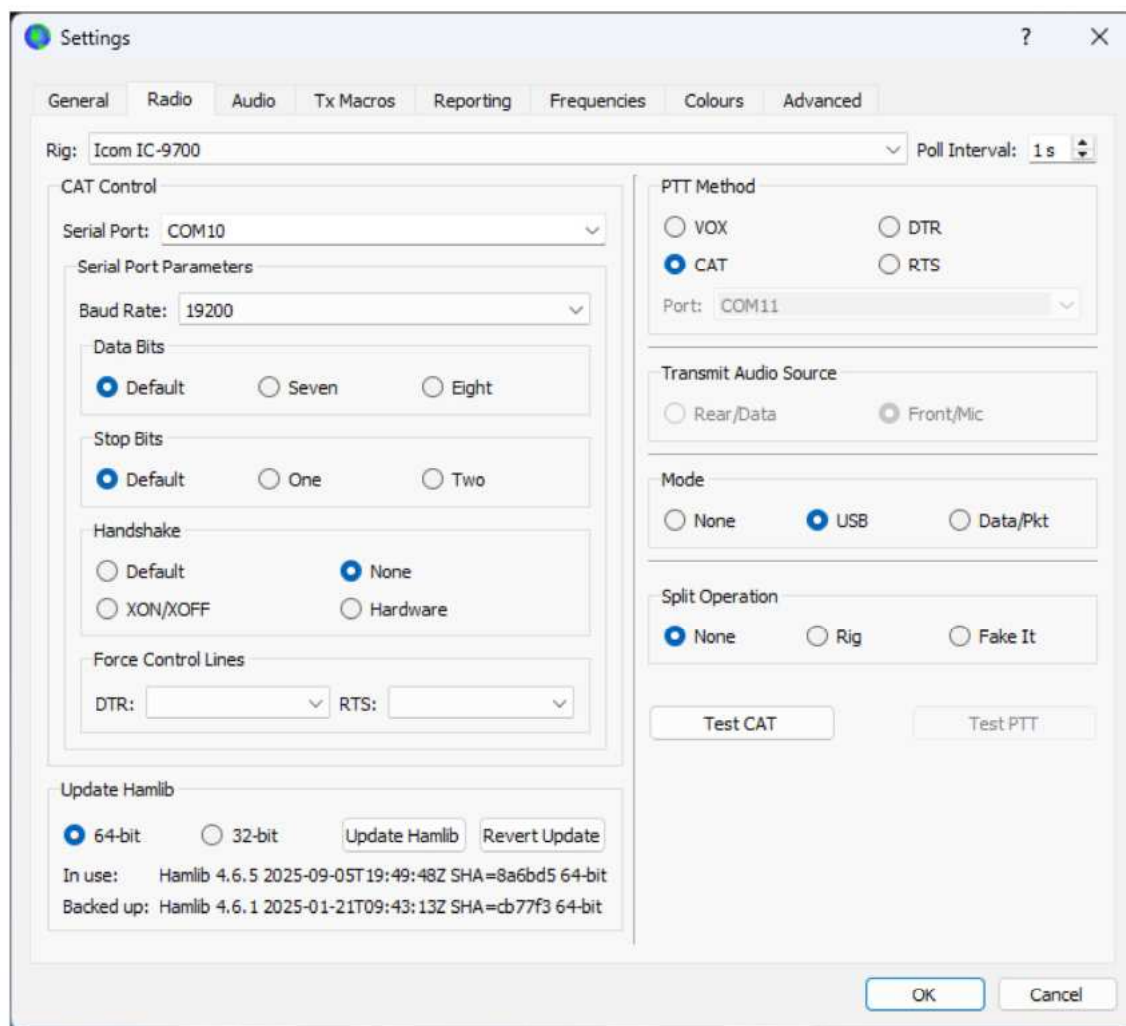
For completeness I've added my settings for the IC9700 on the next page.

What about Omnirig?

Omnirig is another great piece of software that allows a single CAT interface to be shared amongst several applications. So for instance both the logging program and WSJT-X can both read and control the CAT interface. Like HamLib, Omnirig supports a wide range of rigs and gets updated when new rigs come onto the market.

Whilst I love Omnirig and use it a lot, I have also had problems with it that appear to defy logic. Sometimes it works, sometimes it has an off day and wants to be left alone. As this is a subject in its own right, I'll leave it there for the time being.

Icom IC9700 WSJT-X settings:



Here's my settings:

Rig:	Icom IC-9700
Serial Port:	the number of the port we found before
Baud Rate:	19200 (that's as high as the IC-9700 supports on the CAT interface)
Data Bits:	Default (or Eight)
Stop Bits:	Default
Handshake:	None
PTT Method:	CAT
Mode:	USB (but the IC-9700 has to be set to the mode USB-D)
Split operation:	None (maybe I should use Fake It?)

Malcolm G3ZNU

Contest Calendar for February & March 2026

February - HF

Day	Date (2024)	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	02Feb	2000-2130	80m CC SSB
Wed	11 Feb	2000-2130	80m CC DATA
Sat	14 Feb	1900-2300	1st 1.8MHz Contest
Mon	23 Feb	2000-2130	RSGB 2nd FT4 Contest
Thu	26 Feb	2000-2130	80m CC CW

February - VHF

Day	Date (2024)	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	900-1300	432MHz AFS
Tue	10 Feb	1900-1955	432MHz FMAC
Tue	10 Feb	1900-1955	432MHz UKAC
Wed	11 Feb	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	11 Feb	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	12 Feb	2000-2230	50MHz UKAC
Tue	17 Feb	2000-2230	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	19 Feb	1930-2230	70 MHz UKAC
Tue	24 Feb	1930-2230	SHF UKAC

March - HF

Day	Date (2024)	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Mon	02 Mar	2000-2130	80m CC DATA
Wed	11 Mar	2000-2130	80m CC CW
Sat-Sun	14-15 Mar	1000-1000	Commonwealth Contest
Mon	16 Mar	2000-2130	RSGB FT4 Contest
Thu	26 Mar	2000-2130	80m CC SSB

March - VHF

Day	Date (2024)	Time (UTC)	Contest Name
Tue	03 Mar	1900-1955	144MHz FMAC
Tue	03 Mar	2000-2230	144MHz UKAC
Wed	04 Mar	1700-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	04 Mar	1900-2100	144MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Sat-Sun	07-08 Mar	1400-1400	March 144 432MHz
Tue	10 Mar	1900-1955	432MHz FMAC
Tue	10 Mar	2000-2230	432MHz UKAC
Wed	11 Mar	1700-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (4 hours)
Wed	11 Mar	1900-2100	432MHz FT8 AC (2 hours)
Thu	12 Mar	2000-2230	50MHz UKAC
Tue	17 Mar	2000-2230	1.3GHz UKAC
Thu	29 Mar	2000-2230	70MHz UKAC
Tue	24 Mar	1930-2230	SHF UKAC

Dates For Your Diary



CDARS Net and Club Meetings Dates

February 2026

4th - Club Net on 2m SSB - 144.320 USB

11th - Informal Meeting at The Golden Eagle, Ashley Green

18th - Club Net on 2m SSB - 144.320 USB

25th - Formal Meeting at Ashley Green Memorial Hall
This month we have a talk by Terry G4UEM.
His talk will be about the Clansman Series of Military radios.

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

UBA (Belgium) DX Contest, SSB	1300Z, Jan 31 to 1300Z, Feb 1
Marconi Club ARI Loano Slow CW QSO Party	1300Z-2300Z, Feb 1
RSGB 80m Club Championship, SSB	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 2
UKEICC 80m Contest	2000Z-2100Z, Feb 4
SKCC (CW) Sprint Europe	2000Z-2200Z, Feb 5
Mexico RTTY International Contest	1200Z, Feb 7 to 2359Z, Feb 8
European Union DX Contest	1200Z, Feb 7 to 1200Z, Feb 8
RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data	2000Z-2130Z, Feb 11
CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest	0000Z, Feb 14 to 2359Z, Feb 15
World Wide Argentina DX Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Feb 22
CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB	2200Z, Feb 27 to 2200Z, Mar 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.

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 - Northern Amateur Radio Societies Association Exhibition, Northbreck Castle Exhibition Centre, Blackpool, FY2 9AA

June 2026

14th - Junction 28 Radio Rally, The Post Mill Centre, South Normanton, Derbyshire. DE55 2EJ

21st - Suffolk Wireless Revival (Ipswich Radio Rally) Kirton Recreation Ground, Back Road, Kirton, OP10 0PW (off A14).

August 2026

9th - Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest, Cobham Sports & Social Club Ground, Merly, Nr Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 3DA.

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 M0IHV (Items with Dave G8FMC)

	ITEM	ASKING PRICE or O.V.N.O.
1.	Power Mag 145 – large magnetic mount + cable (new £30) New & boxed.	£20 (<i>price reduced</i>)
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	SOLD
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.	Offers
20.	QRP Kits EFHW Tuner	Offers

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