Yaesu FTM-500DE review

Nominations for IARU President and Vice President have been ratified

International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) member societies have ratified the nomination of Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA and Thomas Wrede, DF2OO as IARU President and Vice President, respectively, for a five-year term which began on 9 May 2024. On beginning his 4th term as President, Tim Ellam thanked member societies for their support, congratulated Thomas Wrede on his election as Vice President, and also offered a special and heartfelt thank you to Ole Garpestad, LA2RR who retired as IARU Vice President.

Thomas Wrede has been active in IARU matters for several years and has managed the Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) international affairs team since 2009. "Ham radio has positively influenced my professional career as a communications engineer and has always enriched my life," says Thomas, "and I am looking forward to giving back by actively supporting the objectives and mission of the IARU".

You can read more about the IARU at iaru.org

Tim Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA

Thomas Wrede, DF2OO

Distance learning for the Full licence exam

The Bath Based Distance Learning team (BBDL) has been running courses since 2011. In that time it has helped over 1,000 students to obtain their Full licences. Student feedback is always very positive and the pass rate continues to be well over 80%, compared with a national average of around 65%.

The BBDL team is now planning another Full licence level course. The course will run from the end of August to December, with exams in January.

Students receive weekly work packages via an online classroom and have access to weekly online tutorials. Each student is allocated to one of the remote tutors who provide feedback and additional guidance. There are weekly quizzes to check on progress and, at the end of the course, there are a number of mock exams.

There is no charge for the training but applicants must work through some pre-course material and complete a quiz to be eligible for a place. This focuses on the 'new' Intermediate topics that were introduced to the syllabus in 2019. The aims of the pre-course classroom are to make sure applicants can use the BBDL systems, and to ensure that they are ready for the current Full training syllabus.

Each student will need to provide their own RSGB Full Licence textbook and arrange their own exam at the end of the course. Advice will be provided as part of the course.

The deadline for course applications is Tuesday 23 July. To request full details, and an application form, please email BBDL Team Leader, Steve, G0FUW via g0fuw@bbdl.co.uk

CDXC Convention 2024

CDXC: The UK DX Foundation is holding its annual DX Convention and dinner on 20 July.

This year there will be a new venue: The Littlebury Hotel, Bicester, OX26 6DR.

The CDXC AGM will be held at 11am and, in the afternoon, there will be talks by Mark, M0DXR on WRTC 2026; Mike, G4WNC covering all things SDR; Nigel, G3TXF discussing the impact of FT8 on DXpeditions; and Gregg, W6IZT describing the build and operation of his 'Rig in a Box' for DXpeditions. Non-members of CDXC are most welcome to come for the day and the evening dinner. Full details and booking information can be found by following the link on the CDXC homepage cdxc.org.uk

spectrum24 conference

On 14 and 15 of September 2024, the first ever 'spectrum' conference, dedicated to amateur radio, will be held. The spectrum24 conference is the result of the 'amateur radio and SDR devroom' (a room for developers) at the FOSDEM conference earlier this year in Brussels. Seeing its great success, it was obvious that there is quite some interest in open-source development in the amateur radio community. This led to the conclusion that a dedicated conference on these topics surely had its place. To make it even more interesting we decided to expand the scope of the conference into other amateur radio-related fields.

Spectrum24 has three main fields of interest:

- Amateur radio developments: ranging across SDR receiver and transmitter hardware and software, novel antenna design, amateur radio infrastructure, new modes of communication, alternative ways of accessing amateur radio spectrum, etc
- Amateur radio non-technical aspects: spectrum use, promotion, bridging amateur radio and other technical communities such as the maker community, FOSS and OSH developer communities, amateur radio IT-infrastructure, etc
- Open-source applications and access to non-amateur radio-spectrum: SRD-band users (such as 433MHz, 862-870MHz, 2.4GHz and 5.8GHz), radio-astronomy and amateur satellite spectrum-users

As the name of the conference implies, spectrum24 is aimed at anybody interested in fostering open systems that provide access to all available radio spectrum.

Via this link you can find an interview with two of the conference organisers on the goals and background of spectrum24 in an episode of hacker public radio: https://hackerpublicradio.org/eps/hpr4122/index.html

The spectrum24 conference is the ideal platform to promote your projects that will further amateur radio and open access to radio spectrum, and show it to a large international audience.

The open format of the conference, with plenty of time between presentations, is aimed to allow you to talk to other people with similar interests, set up cooperation, or even 'hack' together on your project while you are there.

If you are interested in presenting at the conference, or setting up an info-booth at spectrum24, you can make a proposal via this link: spectrum-conference.org/24/cfp

The deadline for proposals for presentations is 15 July.

The deadline for proposals for an info-booth is 15 August.

The conference is held at SmartCity Campus in an old radio factory in Rambouillet near Paris. Access to the conference is free.

You can follow spectrum24 on mastodon: mastodon.radio/@spectrumconf

Join the spectrum24 discussion on matrix: matrix.to/#/#spectrum-conference:matrix.org

Follow spectrum24 on X: twitter.com/SpectrumConf24

IARU Region 1 President, Sylvain Azarian, F4GKR