

Local Amateur Radio Organisations You May Wish To Join

1. When you pass your Foundation Examination and receive your M6 call sign you can get a lot more out of the hobby by joining a local amateur group. In particular you will get to know fellow amateurs and be able to benefit from their knowledge, expertise and practical help. (So important when you are just starting out and not sure about equipment or aerials). Within the Cambridge area there are a number of amateur groups you can join. They will all give you a warm welcome. Just ring the secretary (or contact person) or simply turn up at any of their evening meetings or planned events, say who you are and see if it's the group for you. Many local amateurs belong to more than one group.

2. **Cambridge Repeater Group.** This is the group who maintain and operate the Cambridge repeaters. If you intend to use the repeaters you should join the group to help fund the repeater operations. The Repeater Group don't hold member meetings apart from their AGM. There is an annual Repeater Group Rally at Foxton every spring with trade stalls where you can buy radio "bits". <http://www.cambridgerepeaters.net>

3. **Camb-Hams.** This is a group of amateurs who meet monthly for a "pie and pint" at a local pub. (*The first Wednesday in the month at the The Carpenters Arms Gt. Wilbraham.*) There are no club fees, no constitution, no AGMs etc. However, like-minded people within Camb-Hams who want to do things such as competitions, experiment, organise DX-peditions etc. just form an ad-hoc group and go and do it. If you just want to talk about radio over a meal at the pub that is equally fine! <http://www.camb-hams.com>

4. **Cambridge and District Amateur Radio Club. (CDARC).** This is a more traditional amateur radio club. There are regular speaker meetings, shack evenings, training courses for the Foundation, Intermediate and Full Licences and club construction projects etc. CDARC meets on the second and fourth Friday of every month at the Coleridge College campus (Parkside Federation) in Radegund Road. <http://www.cdarc.org.uk>

5. **Duxford Radio Section (DRS).** Members of DRS are museum volunteers – *which involves a regular commitment* – based at the IWM Duxford. DRS exists to preserve and display historic military radios and explain the exhibits to visitors. Members also operate the museum amateur radio station GB2IWM. It is not a radio club. Applications also involve the museum management and hence take a while to process.

<http://www.duxfordradiosociety.org>

6. **Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB).** The national society for the UK. The RSGB publishes a monthly magazine "RadCom" which contains lots of information about the hobby as well as adverts about amateur radio equipment. The RSGB manages the exam process for Ofcom. <http://www.rsgb.org>

7. **Radio Amateurs' Emergency Network (RAYNET).** If you are interested in joining Cambridgeshire RAYNET please speak with Peter (M0DCV) after the course or visit:

<http://www.cambridgeshire-raynet.net/>

END