

Acorns Special Event Station

“GB4KEY” was run in appreciation of key workers during the pandemic. A temporary relaxation of the rules means the call sign could be operated from different locations and was handed over from one Acorns’ member to the next operating at their own QTH.

It was a resounding success with 280 contacts logged. These contacts reached 34 countries with SSB accounting for the most contacts with FT8 snapping on its heels. 70 stations had a UK call sign and 43 contacts were made on 2M FM/SSB/FT8.

Stations operated on most bands with 129 contacts on 20m, 34 contacts on 10m, and 38 contacts on 15m. HF Band conditions deteriorated from late morning on both days and Morse Code operation was hampered on the Saturday by the CQ WW contest.

Although there was enhancement to VHF propagation, conditions never really stabilised. The event was organised by Vice-Chair, Eddie G0BKL with help from 5 other members of Acorns: G4HCK, G6AMY, G0FDS, M0WJL, G4MJM.

Photo (above) shows a 9 element 2m beam in the background. The antenna in the foreground is a CB (27MHz) antenna with radials that easily re-tuned with an ATU to the Amateur Radio Band 28MHz. Both were used for the CW mode with the 28MHz getting into Toulouse in France.



DX Countries worked: Croatia, Portugal, Germany, Bosnia, Spain, Ireland, Estonia, France, IoM, N.Ireland, Scotland, Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Norway, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Austria, Czech Rep, Slovakia, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden, Poland, Greece, Russia(eu), Russia(as), Ukraine, Latvia, Romania and Serbia.

On the subject of Antennas

DMR is an increasingly popular mode with its ability, via the internet, to reach anywhere in the world; providing, of course, you can connect with your nearest DMR repeater.

The standard “rubber duck” isotropic antennas are certainly compact and convenient but they have their limitations. If the 10W output of a handheld can be focused with a Yagi type antenna that would help – but they are big and bulky.

Eddie, G0BKL, has come up with a good compromise. The photo shows a 3D printed 70cm tabletop “Moxon” antenna which has two elements. As a DMR handheld has a wavelength of 70cm this makes the Moxon a convenient size.

