



Newsletter: Dec 2020

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Frivilliga Radioorganisationen (abbreviated to FRO)

Acorns were contacted by Jan SM0WHH from Sweden who runs a News net on 2m/70cm so was interested in what our club was doing and told us about FRO, the Volunteer Radio Organization. It was founded after WW2 when the Hams were demobbed. The purpose was to keep their knowledge and skills in military signalling.



The latest mission is called MObilit Lednings- Och Sambandssystem (Mobile Command and Communications System). The Power Grid Authority has tracked vehicles and eight of the vehicles are equipped with HF, VHF, UHF radio sets as well as Mobile and Satellite telephone systems with telescopic masts. A trailer has a 10kW generator and carries aerials and cables. Ham radio is still quite an activity within the FRO. In Sweden individual ham call signs use the prefixes SA and SM. SM prefixes might have a two- or three-letter suffix whereas SA prefixes always have a three-letter suffix. Special "contest calls" might have any combination and usually has a single letter suffix. The prefix SK is used for club calls and the prefix SL for military affiliated calls. Any SL-prefix with a suffix beginning with Z is an FRO station.



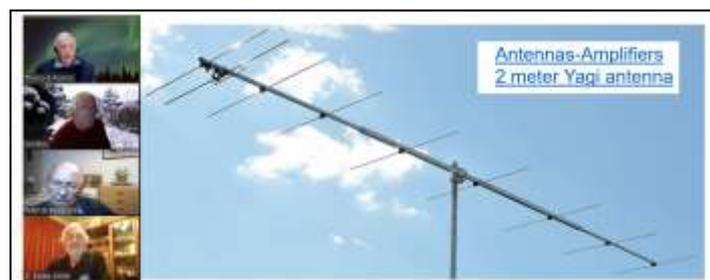
Christmas CWIZ (Nothing to do with CW, possibly)

Everyone on the mailing list will have had the chance to submit four questions for the Christmas Online Social and virtual Quiz on **10th Dec** from **7.30pm**. The prize is a year's membership of Acorns! The deadline to submit questions is **3rd Dec**. The Zoom link is emailed to club members and we encourage as many to join in as possible. The club's new Zoom licence is being put to good use with two Morse Code classes, a longer monthly meeting, and the opportunity for additional mid-week activities and training.

2m Activity Days in Nov, Dec and into Jan

There were two call signs available Acorns on 21 Nov: GB4HKO (Special Event) and GX4HKO (club call). Eddie G0BKL got an impressive SSB contact with Telford in Shropshire some 144 miles away – rather appropriate as he was on 144 MHz.

Our next Activity Event will run from **Sunday 20th Dec** through to **3rd Jan**. Any Full Licence club member is welcome, and encouraged, to get on the rota for our (rather special) Special Event call sign, GB4XMS.



Zoom Meeting on 26 Nov

Presentation by Nick G4HCK about propagation. Some websites were mentioned and are recorded here for reference:

- Dxinnfocentre.com (tropospheric predictions)
- Dxheat.com (easy to read dials for SFI and K factor)
- SolarHam.net (sunspots)