

## Seventeen Cambridge-based radio amateurs put Mull on the air

**From 28<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> May, the Camb-Hams, a group of seventeen radio amateurs from Cambridge, will be operating eight 'ham' radio stations around the clock from a site on Mull.**

Each year, the Camb-Hams visit the West Coast of Scotland to operate their radio equipment, and this year's return visit to Mull (they were last here in 2008) is their biggest undertaking yet. The group's transmitters should allow the seventeen friends to make contact with radio amateurs across the UK and around the world. Many of the aerials and some other equipment are homemade. The Camb-Hams' van, Flossie, (a converted Fiat Ducato equipped with a 60ft aerial mast) will also be making the long journey from East Anglia.

The group's site, near Bunessan on the Ross of Mull, has been especially chosen to ensure that mountains and hills do not 'block' the signals towards both Europe and North America, and, as a result, they hope to speak to over ten thousand people during their one-week stay. This is possible partly because a number of radio amateurs try to contact each of the world's islands (making Mull a desirable place to contact), and because the high number of sunspots in recent months means that radio waves are propagating better than they have for several years.

Gavin Nesbitt (call sign M1BXF), one of the trip's organisers who is originally from Helensburgh, said: 'The Camb-Hams really enjoy our annual visits to the West Coast of Scotland. It's fascinating to hear how much louder the signals are here, than when you're in a city where electronic equipment causes interference.'

Robert Chipperfield (call sign MOVFC) added: 'The trip is really a social occasion as much as it is about radio. We have a number of radio amateurs from the Cambridge area, with all sorts of different backgrounds, who come together to have fun, with radio as the focus.'

The media are welcome to visit the site by prior arrangement.

For more information, contact Dominic Smith on 07989 150680 or email [m0blf@domsmith.co.uk](mailto:m0blf@domsmith.co.uk)

### Notes to editors:

- Amateur radio is a hobby that emphasises training and experimentation in radio-related disciplines. This educational aspect differentiates amateur (aka 'ham') radio from CB. Amateur radio operators have to take an examination to demonstrate technical competence before obtaining a licence. There are 65,000 licensed radio amateurs in the UK, and approximately two million worldwide. For more information about amateur radio, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur\\_radio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_radio)
- The website for the Mull trip is at <http://dx.camb-hams.com>
- Most of the costs of the trip are being borne by Camb-Hams members themselves but some sponsorship has been obtained from Martin Lynch and Sons, a major amateur radio dealership based in Surrey.
- The Camb-Hams were formed in April 2006 as the social side of Cambridgeshire Repeater Group (CRG), which owns and maintains a large amount of amateur radio infrastructure around Cambridgeshire and beyond. The CRG was itself formed from the Pye Radio Club, after the closure of the Pye Radio Company. This heritage is acknowledged in the Ofcom-issued call sign which the group is using on Mull: GS3PYE/P
- 2012 also sees the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CRG's first amateur radio repeater, which was also the first amateur radio repeater to be licensed in the UK.

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