

Ham Radio 2007 – Friedrichshafen Rally

June 2007 Rally Report

By John Ray G8DZH

My yearly visit to Germany and the Ham Radio show at Friedrichshafen, 22-24 June, had been eagerly anticipated all year. For those who missed my talk and photo presentation on July 3rd at the club, here are the salient details and highlights.

As in previous years, a Ryanair flight from Stansted direct to Friedrichshafen was my preferred way of travel. Although flying is now not a relaxing experience, it is still an economical way to get to Germany, about £52

including taxes. Travelling companions Brian G0GGM, Colin G0LIN from the Colchester Club and Andy G6ULX from Coventry (we met many years ago on an earlier trip via coach) added to the number of hams on the flight. Spotted also was Mark Allgar from the RSGB and Peter Waters of W&S. This year Dave G3VGR was not able to attend.

I added a few extra days to allow a holiday in Lindau. The Hotel am Holdereggenpark, was comfortable with en suite bathroom, cable TV and 10 minutes walk from the Island. Other hams were also staying there. The 'all you can eat' buffet breakfast with copious amounts of fresh fruit, cereals etc. Bacon and eggs if wanted and a wide choice of freshly cooked bread. Booked directly, B&B was €48 a night. Using Lindau as a base, we travelled to the exhibition by train and also boat.

Weather in general was sunny and wet, temperatures ranging from 17C to 32C during the day. However, as often happens, sudden and violent rain showers appear out of nowhere and a storm caused some flooding at the exhibition hall before the show as the traders were setting up. Non-show days were used with leisurely trips. One train journey to Dornbirn in Austria (€6.70 return by train) was in a shiny new OBB double-decker train. But heavy rain meant a wet walkabout on arrival. We returned to Lindau by bus to the Austrian / German border and then got the Lindau Stadbus to the hotel.

Another trip was to Oberstdorf, the gateway to several nearby mountains. Although the weather was closing in, The Fellhorn was open and the trip to the top, at 2037m ASL, was by a newly-constructed cable car.

Spectacular views were the reward, and of course a convenient restaurant at the top. Andy G6ULX was able to access the Friedrichshafen Echolink node on 2m over 70km away but interlinking was switched off. It was possible to get higher and several parties were climbing higher, although almost in the clouds.



Onto the show itself. Held over three days at the Friedrichshafen Messe, it does take two days to see everything. As well as four exhibition halls, the DARC had arranged a full lecture and meeting programme. A 3-day ticket costs €14. This year HamRadio 2007 was attended by 18,100 visitors from 36 countries. The RSGB President opened the show to an invited audience. However, Mark Allgar at the RSGB stand gave me a copy of his speech, so I didn't miss anything.

Hall A1 contained the main traders and National Societies. There were 207 exhibitors and associations in attendance to provide a wide range of items on sale and view. As well as the RSGB and ARRL, the IRTS (Irish Society) were there for the first time. There was a strong RSGB presence with staff and volunteers being proactive in greeting visiting members and selling books. W&S were kept busy selling their accessories.

The main dealers were displaying some new products. Spotted on the Icom stand was a demo model of the recently announced IC-7700 HF / 6m transceiver, but protected by perspex! Based on the IC-7800 and with 200W output at full duty cycle, it is being called 'the contester's radio'. Expected cost is \$6,000 US and available in December 2007



Hilberling, a German company, had several examples of their PT-8000 HF / 6m / 2m transceivers on display. The quality of wiring and construction was second to none, but it has a price to match. One version has 600W output using only two MOSFETs working push-pull from a 100V rail.



On the Kenwood stand, the new Echolink-ready dual-band radio TM-V71 was being demonstrated. Unfortunately, over the weekend, the IT staff were not available and the Echolink node was not working due to the UDP packets being blocked. All was working on Friday. The stand manager was very unhappy and demonstrated his excellent knowledge of English colloquial words and expressions to vent his displeasure. Sabine (below) was more sanguine.





Yaesu were demonstrating how to keep fit and operate at the same time with a bike-mounted FTM-10 dual band FM transceiver.



One of the attractions of HamRadio is the Fleamarket. With 300 traders in three halls, B1 to B3, at least 1-2 days could be spent without visiting the main hall at all. Every conceivable component and accessory can be bought and all types of Test Equipment were on sale; bartering being expected and extra deals to be found towards the end of the show.

The unusual items though never cease to surprise. This year it was possible to buy a complete military First Aid station and accessories, complete with stretcher.



A Russian-built HF transmitter truck was on offer – buyer collects and drives from the Czech Republic though. There was also a full complement of surgeon's tools and knives for those contemplating DIY to circumvent the NHS queues.



Enigma decoding machines were being demonstrated as well as the Russian equivalent, the Fialka M-125. You could build your own and circuit diagrams were being sold for the Russian machines.

Between the halls were cafeterias and in the centre of the exhibition complex traditional German fayre was on offer.



This year saw an increased number of UK hams at the show; the word is spreading! I am running out of space but in summary HamRadio 2007 was an enjoyable show that didn't disappoint. Combined with an ideal holiday location, Lake Constance, and close proximity to Austria and Switzerland, there's plenty to do as well on non-show days.

73

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Links

HamRadio 2007 site

<http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.de/html/en/index.php>

Hilberling PT-8000 transceiver

http://hilberling.com/produkte/produkte_pt8_t9.htm

Icom IC-7700

<http://www.rigpix.com/icom/ic7700.htm>

<http://www.ab4oj.com/icom/ic7700/main.html>

Icom IC-7700 Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYXR5UyCrY&NR=1>

Hotel Holderregenpark, Lindau

<http://www.hotel-am-holdereggenpark.de>

