

NH

National Hamfest Show Guide

2 & 3 OCTOBER 2009
10am to 4pm each day

If you plan to visit just one major radio rally this year, make sure it's the National Hamfest!

EVEN MORE TRADERS. Visitors will be able to see all the latest radios on display by Icom, Kenwood & Yaesu – and talk to the staff who know the radios well. This is the only two-day show in the UK where the three main manufacturers will be seen together and where you'll be able to compare the features of the radios 'in the flesh'. All the major dealers will be in attendance with a huge variety of radios, antennas and accessories for sale – just look at the list of those attending! Whether you are looking for cable or connectors, antennas or a new microphone, you'll find a host of accessories for sale around the main hall. There's bound to be plenty of show offers around too as the dealers bring out their stock for just about the biggest show of the year.

Ofcom will also be exhibiting and this will give the visitors to the show the chance to talk to them about any concerns they have affecting amateur radio. They will be at the show on both the Friday and Saturday. So whether you want to talk about licensing or PLA interference, there

will be staff on hand to advise you. The new 2010 RSGB Yearbook will be launched on Friday 2 October at the show and the first 100 customers buying the Yearbook each day will get a free goodie bag.

If you've seen any of the adverts for this book you'll know that it's bigger than ever this year with 528 pages of information from callsigns to operating and licensing to clubs. Don't forget that RSGB members can take advantage of their Members Discount when buying any books from the RSGB at the National Hamfest.

There will be a great Bring & Buy too run by the Lincoln Short Wave Club – no better time to turn out that unused equipment or come along and look for a bargain. Outside the main hall will be a non-trade car boot sale, which must be pre-booked. So if you've had a turnout and tidy-up in the shack, could this be a great way of disposing of your surplus equipment?

Also outside the main building, visitors will have the opportunity to see inside the new GB4FUN mobile classroom. Recently, the Icom IC-7600 has been installed and the AvMap GeoSat 5 has been added to the TMD-7100, thanks to the generosity of Icom, Kenwood and AvMap. The Radio Communications Foundation are very grateful to all those manufacturers and dealers who have kindly loaned or given equipment to the project as this has created a modern and impressive demonstration vehicle to show the public. This mobile, fully self-contained, communications centre spends time visiting

schools and events up and down the country. The project is primarily aimed at supporting those studying for GCSEs and inspiring them into science based careers and hopefully expanding the amateur community. It will be open to anyone to visit and will especially welcome young visitors.

CREATING AN IMPRESSION. Luso Towers created huge interest at the Dayton and Freidrichshafen amateur radio shows with their enormous towers. They will be visiting the National Hamfest with a 36m version and, when you see this huge tower up close, you will be impressed. Fully retracted, the four sections still take up 12.5m of floor space and the base is 1.7m across! To carry the rated 150kg of antennas, this tower will need a concrete base that measures 2.3 x 2.3 x 2m. It comes with an outside platform for easy access to the antennas as well as steps. It is computer controlled to raise and lower the mast and has a host of other features such as wind speed indicator, one touch height memory and automatic wind speed descent control. Luso Towers have said that the tower is, as yet, unsold and that they are willing to negotiate a very special price to any UK amateur wishing to buy the tower. Even if your back garden won't run to a 36m tower, the engineering involved in such a large tower is a sight to see and admire.

ADVICE & INFORMATION. The RSGB will be in attendance with many of their committees ready to talk to members and non-members alike about their concerns and questions. Regular readers of *RadCom* will be interested to know





ORGANISED BY THE RSGB IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE LINCOLN SHORT WAVE CLUB

that Steve Nichols, who has written the popular Understanding Propagation column, will be on the Propagation Committee stand. Other groups to look out for are the very popular IOTA programme, the EMC Committee, ARDF, Emerging Technology, Planning, Exams department, QSL Bureau and the Regional teams. So whatever you need advice on, there will be experts on hand to help.

There will be a large number of Special Interest Groups at the National Hamfest – again take a look at the list of those attending. So, if you want to know more about the best special interest groups in amateur radio, then this is an ideal place to visit and chat to them.

PRIZES GALORE. There will be a free prize draw for paying visitors to the show as well as a Yaesu VX-8 daily draw. Visitors could win an Icom IC-7200, SuperAntennas Beam in a Bag, Heil Quiet Phone and many more excellent prizes. Your entry ticket can be filled in and placed in the main draw before mid-day on Saturday 3 October. The draw will take place at 1pm.

Tickets for the Yaesu draw can be picked up at the main entrance or the RadCom stand. The draw will take place each afternoon for a VX-8.

MORSE PROFICIENCY. Visitors to the show will also have the opportunity to take their Morse Proficiency tests as the Region 13 team will have their Morse examiners available throughout the two days. Test speeds start at 5 words a minute and can go to 30 words per minute if the candidate wishes. Details of the National Hamfest can be found at www.nationalhamfest.co.uk.



ALREADY BOOKED & CONFIRMED

The **ONLY** place to see all these Traders

- BYLARA
- GRANTHAM RC
- LINCOLN REPEATER GROUP
- LINCOLN SHORT WAVE CLUB
- MARCH ARS
- MEXBOROUGH & DISTRICT ARS
- RAFARS
- RAF WADDINGTON ARC
- RAIBC
- RAOTA
- RNARS
- SPALDING AND DISTRICT ARS
- UK TESLA COIL BUILDERS

NATIONAL HAMFEST – THE ONLY PLACE YOU'LL SEE ALL THESE ORGANISATIONS TOGETHER!

VENUE. The George Stephenson Exhibition Hall was completed in April 2005 and is 102 metres long by 24 metres wide. The main hall has an extremely smooth concrete floated floor. The walls are insulated throughout and the roof is also insulated and has 20% clear panels, making light levels almost as good as daylight. On the front, east facing elevation, there is an area of glass either side of the central entrance foyer. The main foyer has 2 external double doors and forms a reception area.



GETTING THERE. The Showground is situated two miles north east of the historic market town of Newark, an attractive market town situated along the river Trent. It offers a wealth of history, interesting buildings and museums. Its most famous period in history was during the Civil War in which it was a Royalist stronghold and withstood three sieges. Many reminders of that period can still be seen in the town, including its imposing 12th century castle.

By Road. The Showground is situated adjacent to the junction of the A1, A46 and A17 trunk roads, giving easy access to the country's major road networks.

By Train. East Coast Mainline Train stops at Newark Northgate station only 10 minutes from the fair. Travel by train from London in 90 minutes and the Grimsby to Nottingham line offers connections to the Midlands at Newark Castlegate Station.

By Air. The George Stephenson Exhibition Hall is one hour from Nottingham East Midlands Airport.

Tickets for the event cost £4.50 on the door (accompanied U16 free), although advance tickets can be bought online until 21 September at the reduced rate of £3.50. There are offers for groups bookings, see www.nationalhamfest.org.uk for details.