



RAG CHEW

GLOUCESTER AMATEUR RADIO
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Holiday Operating in EI – Then 1982 and Now 2014 **By Brian G4CIB** **Part 1 – Then 1982**

In 1982 I had been working for Bourns Electronics for some four years as a Sales Engineer and my patch included Ireland so I had been frequently flying into Shannon Airport to visit customers in the Galway, Limerick and Shannon area. Sales visits, however, did not give me time to explore the area as I would have liked so a holiday in Ireland with my wife Leta was arranged. The plan was to travel from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire on the Sealink ferry, staying overnight at the Royal Marine Hotel where we had booked accommodation, exploring Dublin the following day before setting off across to Galway and beyond, relying on bed & breakfast accommodation “on-spec”. The possibility of enjoying some amateur radio was also investigated, and I discovered that a Visitor's Licence could be obtained by applying in person to the General Post Office in O'Connell Street, Dublin, which I duly did and was issued with a permit enabling me to operate on 2 metres, 25 watts maximum power with the call sign EI2VJW. My equipment was fairly basic – a Trio TR2300 FM transceiver and an Icom IC202S ssb transceiver, a 5/8λ gutter mount antenna also an 8 element yagi and small mast.

After a day exploring Dublin, we headed for Athlone where we quickly found a suitable B & B and then explored the town. The following morning travelling to Galway my mobile log book records that I worked EI9ARB Frank, EI9AFB/M Pat and EI9DR/M Gerry. We must have taken in Connemara that day as my log book records another qso with EI9ARB Frank and EI5IT Frank (using the call sign EI2GRC – Galway Regional College) whilst driving in the Connemara area. The following day we toured via Salthill to the Cliffs of Moher logging qsos with EI3VIG/M Declan (via the Galway repeater), EI9AFB/M Pat and EI9ARB Frank. On 2nd July we headed south east heading for Wicklow, my log book recording qsos with EI6AAB/M Maurice, EI2BBB/M Gerry and EI5EM/M Tony. On 3rd July we visited Powerscourt also my log book notes that we discovered Sally Gap in the Wicklow Mountains, logging qsos with GW4JXB Dave and GW6DJM Mike on FM. That evening there must have been a 2m contest as my log book records ssb qsos with EI2CA/P, EI8AYB/P, and on the following day, 4th July, GI4EFF/P, G4BAR/P, GW4LIP/P, GW6TM/P, EI5EM/M all with contest serial numbers and locator squares. Later that day we drove to Dublin, logging qsos with GW6HSR/A Julian and GW3JYS/P. After another overnight stay in Dun Laoghaire, we caught the morning ferry back to Holyhead and at the start of our journey home logged our last EI qso of the holiday with EI5EM/M Tony, in Dublin.

My recollection of that holiday was that we packed a lot of sightseeing in – how we found the time to do all of that and operate amateur radio I can't imagine – other than we were thirty or so years younger and days were longer then!

It would be many years before I had the chance to operate in EI again.

Part 2 – Now (2014)

You will recall in the first part of this article my wife and I spent a week's holiday in Ireland in the Summer of 1982 and some of that time was spent activating EI2VJW. Fast forward to 2014 and my wife Leta and myself are still very much involved with Amateur Radio, indeed Leta acquired the call sign G4RHK soon after our 1982 holiday. Also our interests have extended to old cars and one of the clubs we belong to – The Crash Box and Classic Car Club (based in Devon) – regularly organise touring holidays at home and abroad. Even better, in 2014 a group of members had arranged to visit the Killarney area in September and we were invited to join them – what better way to explore a part of Ireland we were not familiar with than

with a group of like minded car enthusiasts. And of course an opportunity to operate on the Amateur bands. But now, thanks to the CEPT agreement, we can operate without the formality of obtaining a Visitors Licence as I had done in 1982.

One evening, a month or so before our holiday during a chance conversation in our local pub we got chatting to a vintage motorcycle enthusiast who had just returned from touring the Killarney area with other motorcyclists. "Pop round one evening with a map and I'll mark it up with all the "must-see" places and routes". This he duly did – the Ring of Kerry, the Beara Peninsula (including the Healy Pass), and the Dingle Peninsula were all highlighted with various routes. "And" said our host "if you are near Killmackalogue you MUST visit Teddy O'Sullivan's – and mention my name."

We realised this was going to be a busy week, but at least for this holiday we would be staying in one location – the "Lake Hotel" in Killarney. We had been assured that although we would be with a group of fellow car-enthusiasts, nothing was pre-arranged and we could do our own thing either on our own or with the other members but that we would all meet up in the evening to mull over the days events. This sounded like a good opportunity to include some Amateur Radio! I realised that the operating would have to mix in with the touring and to be quite honest, as 2m mobile operating no longer appeals, and armed with the knowledge that we would be visiting areas with fantastic beaches I decided to take my IC703 and a 5m "roach-pole" vertical antenna which I can quickly and easily deploy. I did relent, however, and take my Alinco 2m hand held which had the added bonus of enabling me to monitor the marine channels for weather forecasts!

Well – we packed a lot in – to summarise – we were in Killarney at the Lake Hotel from Friday 19th until Thursday 25th September – the weather was glorious - someone told us it never rains in Ireland in September. Our touring took in the Ring of Kerry, the Dingle Peninsula, the Beara Peninsula, and yes – we did lunch at Teddy O'Sullivan's.

I managed to operate from the following locations:-

Saturday 20th September – Inch Beach on 40m: Dave in Penzance and G4VSJ near Leicester.

Saturday 20th September – Gowlane Strand, Brandon Bay on 20m EG1DEP

Sunday 21st September – Molls Gap on 2m EI7DSB/P Liam – SOTA station.

Sunday 21st September – Derrynane Beach – many contacts on 15m including W1AW/P Larry (CT) and W1AW/4 (NC)

Monday 22nd September – Banna Beach Nr Tralee – many contacts on 20m & 15m including W1AW/1 and 7X2ARA (headquarters station of the Algerian Radio Amateurs Association)

Wednesday 23rd September – picnic site between Killmackalogue and Lauragh – 20m and 15m mainly USA contacts but two qsos at 5-9 both ways on 15m with G4WMP in Weybridge and G3SVD in Newbury.

On our return to Pembroke, we stayed for a few days in the area and on Saturday 27th September operating as GW4CIB/P I had a delightful QSO with EI2WRC/P, Mark operating for the Railways on the Air. The following day from my home QTH I managed to contact EI2WRC/P Mark again – a fitting end to a memorable holiday in Ireland.

Monuments to Guglielmo Marconi – a quick quiz **By Brian M6BRi**

On the next page is a picture of one of the many monuments to Guglielmo Marconi.
There are over 750 monuments to him throughout the world!

Guglielmo Marconi (25 April 1874 to 20 July 1937) was an Italian inventor and electrical engineer, known for his pioneering work on long-distance radio transmission and for his development of Marconi's Law and a radio telegraph system. He is often wrongly credited as the inventor of radio, and he shared the 1909 Nobel Prize in Physics with Karl Ferdinand Braun "in recognition of their contributions to the development of wireless telegraphy". An entrepreneur, businessman, and founder in Britain in 1897 of The Wireless Telegraph & Signal Company (which became the Marconi Company), Marconi succeeded in making a commercial success of radio by innovating and building on the work of previous experimenters and physicists. In 1929 the King of Italy ennobled Marconi as a Marquis.

The picture was taken in 2008

Where is this monument?

What are those people watching from the viewing platform behind?

Just include the answers with your article for Ragchew



Thank you to those who have contributed to your issue of Ragchew
If you have an article to share; projects, old stories, jokes or cartoons, trips, interesting non radio interests -
email it to me or give it to me on paper at the club brian.millard60@gmail.com