

Dear visitors of the Ham Radio 2015

For years, presentations about DXpeditions, IOTA from RSGB and many other organizations have had a strong presence on Saturday with talks and booths. In contrast, SOTA has neither regular presentations nor its own booth; instead we simply meet at the QSL wall. Last year, Emi DL8JJ and Martin DF3MC had a presentation about operating from mountaintops as part of the DARC Adventure World.

This imbalance between DXers and IOTA participants on the one hand and operating from mountaintops on the other hand has bothered me for quite some time. Thus, last year I made an early inquiry with the Ham Radio organizers if it would be possible to have a meeting room for SOTA. Early this year I was assigned this room for Friday by DARC. I am making it my goal to enable all us SOTA enthusiasts to have a regular place to meet and exchange ideas. Perhaps in the future we will also get a room for Saturday. I know already that I have a conflict with the Friday date for next year's Ham Radio.

I extend my greetings to Andy MM0FMF who made a special effort to be with us today so he can respond to your questions from the point of view of the SOTA Management Team. You can ask your questions in English, French or German -- both to Andy as well as to the rest of us.

After this exchange of ideas with Andy, we have planned the following mini-presentations:

- The pros/cons of a KX3 compared to a FT-817ND, by Jürg Regli, HB9BIN
- The pros/cons of the AlexLoop compared to an EndFedz end-fed dipole, an analysis of non-scientific measurement results using the RBN, by Paul Schreier HB9DST
- The product range and new items from Palm Radio, an overview by Hansjörg Baur HB9DWS, the Swiss Palm Radio distributor and "insider"
- The use of BaseCamp, the free navigation software from Garmin, as a useful instrument for planning a SOTA expedition, by Jürg Regli, HB9BIN
- Computer logging on a SOTA expedition with an OpenPandora Linux handheld PC, by Peter Kohler, HB9TVK

73, Jürg Regli, HB9BIN