

Talk on FreeDV Rade by G8IBR Nyall

A most excellent evening discussion at Bury St Edmunds ARS (BSEARS) on FreeDV by G8IBR Nyall and his glamorous (!!) assistants G1XHW Bill and 2e0NKG Nick, in the hall, with G8GRL Kim over in Ashen Essex set up to give a live demonstration.

Nyall went on to describe how he picked up the baton upon learning about FreeDV from Radcom, the benefits of the system over regular SSB in noisy band conditions and how he set up his station to operate through FreeDV. This project has been ongoing with on air tests over the last few weeks with G8GRL Kim, Bill and Nick seemed to have got swept up in the enthusiasm but not having the “right kit” to take part found their own work arounds. G8IBR Nyall went through all the stages of setting up FreeDV, possible hitches that need looking at, before calling up G8GRL Kim on 2m ssb to establish contact. With contact made, power was dropped to QRP levels to demonstrate 2m ssb signal to noise etc. They then switched over to FreeDV and went through the same process, the clarity on low power was amazing, thus proving the narrower bandwidth and enhancements of FreeDV really could have a useful place in the radio amateurs arsenal in an ever increasing noisy world.

Then G1XHW Bill took the floor, demonstrating how he made a work around in what I’d describe as the true spirit of amateur radio. Taking an old android tablet, some bits of wire, a couple of components & sticky tape “bodging” a system to make it do what he couldn’t afford to by utilising what he had to hand. And within a couple of weeks he proved his set up on air in QSO with Nyall & Kim.

Then we came around to 2e0NKG Nick. Again, Nick lacked the radio/computer set up to take part, but was fascinated by the ongoing progress made by the others. With his background in IT he sourced programming from GitHub, applied it through his SDR receiver, used some old disused mobile android phone and some cheap adapter cables and soon had a very successful station to receive and decode FreeDV. Again I feel the true spirit of amateur radio came out from all four demonstrating the system, and a huge thanks for sharing.

Technically a lot of this was over my head, but I got the idea, the benefits, and would say it was also a very entertaining evening. Thanks to all and BSEARS for hosting an excellent talk.

Andy - 2e0DIQ

<https://freedv.org/> for more information & downloads.









