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# HAM friends Joining EYEBALL QSO Gathering

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**Abstract:** This article reported the gathering activities of HARTS HAM friends i.e. EYEBALL QSO.

**Keywords :** EYEBALL QSO

## 1. Introduction

HARTS held an EYEBALL QSO gathering for HAM friends and participated in the IARU Region 3 21.350 MHz SSB event at the Radio Communication Support Service Center of the Hong Kong Amateur Radio Society (HARTS CSS) at 3:00 pm on December 22, 2024. Many HAM Friends joined EYEBALL QSO gathering and the event was always full of learning, communication and fun. Especially when new HAM friends joined, the EYEBALL QSO became more dynamic. The content below shares my experience on joining this event, hoping to help everyone review and understand the essence of this event.

## 2. Visit HARTS

VR2PK introduced HARTS equipment and antennas, including an UV vertical antenna, a four-arm helical antenna, a shortwave Yagi antenna, and an UV Yagi antenna specifically designed for receiving satellite signals. Everyone was very excited when they saw the large shortwave Yagi antenna being raised and rotating to change its direction.



Figure 1 : an UV Yagi antenna specifically designed for receiving satellite



Figure 2 : UV Antenna



Figure 3 : HF Yagi Antenna

### 3. Antenna Testing

VR2VFC brought along a newly purchased 25-watt mobile UV transceiver and antenna, requesting guidance on how to perform an SWR test. Fellow HAM enthusiasts eagerly offered their help, providing explanations and using another antenna for comparison. This test not only served as a verification of the equipment but also allowed the new HAM friends to experience the warmth and enthusiasm of the HAM community.



Figure 4 : Newly purchased 25W mobile radio and antenna.

### 4. VR2VFC's first HF Communication

In October 2024, VR2VFC obtained an amateur radio license and callsign. This event marked VR2VFC's first participation in DX activity. Under the guidance of experienced HAM operators, VR2VFC learned to operate the ICOM IC-7600 for the first time. While listening on different bands, there were times when the other station's callsign couldn't be clearly heard. With intermittent reception, VR2VFC persistently listened and took notes of the conversation. Attempts were made to receive on different frequencies, adjust the transmission settings, and call CQ. Upon hearing the other station's callsign, it was immediately noted down, and a prepared script for the conversation was ready. When the right moment came, VR2VFC called the other station's callsign and received a response. A conversation began, with VR2VFC clearly stating their callsign, QTH, and the equipment and antenna being used, while also listening to the other station's reply. Both stations exchanged signal reports, and the QSO concluded with the traditional "73 Blessing". On 14.270 MHz, VR2VFC successfully made a DX contact with BG7SAZ in Wuzhou, Guangxi.



Figure 5 : ICOM IC-7600

## 5. Experience Sharing on Radio Inspection

The YAESU FT-991A was a versatile HF/VHF/UHF all-band transceiver, known for its powerful features and stable performance. However, its size and weight made it less convenient for outdoor operations. VR2WEV shared their DIY solution, which involved assembling a battery and equipment and placing them in a transparent backpack, making the radio more portable and suitable for outdoor use. The modified FT-991A backpack was ideal for SOTA (Summits on the Air) or POTA (Parks on the Air) activities, easily handling various communication modes such as SSB, CW, and digital modes. VR2WEV also shared insights on how to bring the device to OFCA (Office of the Communications Authority) for inspection, including the requirement and process. The inspection ensured that the radio equipment complied with Hong Kong's relevant regulations and technical standards, verifying that the frequency stability and output power of the equipment met the specified criteria.

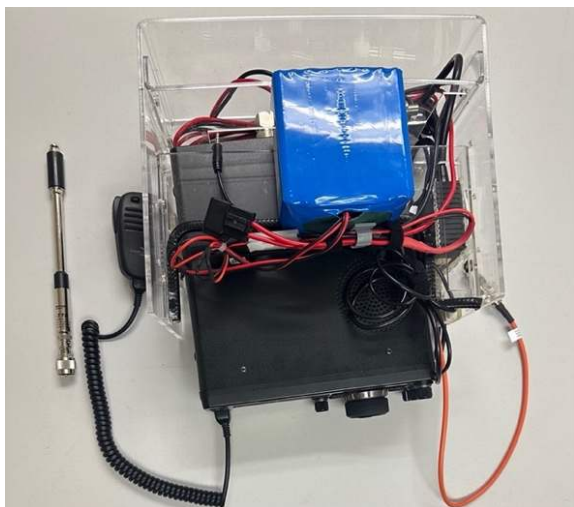


Figure 6 : Photo of the Radio Station FT-991A



Figure 7 : The FT-991A backpack contains a transceiver, battery, handheld microphone, and antenna.

## 6. HF QSO Operation

HAM enthusiasts shared tips on how to make proper calls and responses (such as the format of a CQ call) and how to adjust transmission power and antennas to achieve the best results. This provided valuable hands-on experience for beginners operating shortwave QSOs. VR2PK prepared a conversation script for everyone to learn from, and new HAM friends took turns practicing QSO operations in queue.

## 7. Participating The IARU R3 Net

The activity began at 18:00 local time, and we used the ICOM IC-7300 to make QSOs on 21.350 MHz. Everyone actively participated in the IARU Region 3 21.350 MHz SSB activity, taking turns to make QSOs with HSOAC. The participating HAM friends included, but were not limited to: VR2XXC, VR2XPJ, VR2PK,

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VR2XIO, VR2XWW, VR2XNL, VR2USS, VR2VYW, VR2VFC, and VR2WEV, etc.



Figure 8 : The IARU R3 Net



Figure 9 : ICOM IC-7300

## 8. VR2XPJ Sharing

The 84-year-old VR2XPJ quietly sat on the side reading an English HAM magazine, and most people were somewhat unfamiliar with him. He shared that he still has a deep passion for amateur radio and keeps valuable radio equipment at home. However, due to the limitations of his living environment, he was unable to set up antennas. As a result, his opportunities for daily operation and QSOs had become less frequent, which he found a bit regretful. He could only revisit some magazines from earlier years.

## 9. Making a QSO with new HAM VR2ZAU

145.650 MHz was one of the commonly used VHF repeater frequencies in the Hong Kong area, providing a stable communication. The purpose of a repeater was to extend the range of radio communication, especially in urban environments or areas with complex terrain. VR2PK and fellow HAM friends made a QSO with new HAM VR2ZAU. She watched VR2PK's tutorials on YouTube, independently applied for and obtained her amateur radio license and callsign.



Figure 10 : Making a QSO with new HAM VR2ZAU

## 10. Event Summary

This EYEBALL QSO gathering was rich in content, covering topics such as equipment testing for beginners, technical sharing, and experiences with radio inspection. It provided valuable opportunities for both new and experienced HAM friends to connect and exchange knowledge. We hoped for more exciting HAM gatherings in the future, allowing everyone to continue learning and growing together! The only regret was that we forgot to take photos to commemorate the event! 73!