

Mills on the Air

Three of the members of the Banbury Amateur Radio Society decided to make, what was for us a DX expedition, to the South of France. The QTH of Brian M0IEZ near Carcasonne, for the Mills on the Air weekend. I am Antony M0IFA and our other DXer was James M0XPU.

Here two of us are, up above Brian's olive mill in his "upper garden". I will post a pic of James as soon as I have one from Brian's camera...



Brian M0IEZ and Antony M0IFA

The trip

James flew down to Carcasonne with his wife and we, Antony and my wife, drove down over a couple of days. Antony packed all the gear in his boot.

We all arrived by the 9th, and set about carrying the gear up the mountain side on the 10th. Setting up:

- James's Yaesu FT1991, all band 100W transceiver, and a 40m doublet antenna, fixed up between a couple of trees. James and Brian operated on SSB.
- Antony's ELAD FDM-DUO SDR, 5W transceiver, with a MacBook computer and a small table top loop antenna. Antony operated FT8

We had a useful ATU which was not needed by the FT1991 which has a built-in ATU, but was good for matching the small SDR the the doublet.

The weather was for the most part kind, if windy. Antony got sunburnt, to a frazzle on the first day and we had just one quick rush to take down the gear at a sudden flash of rain, which cleared before we got everything in the shed. So we go it out again!

We made a total of 12 contacts in Spain and France. And heard but could not complete QSO with quite a few others, notably PA0GUMILL and GB8RS from Bletchley.

Later we heard that the BARS people back in UK had set up, but made only 5 contacts all day. Bad luck chaps.