

First Ever Communication Via Radio Waves Across the English Channel

Sort of like that it must have read in the papers (TV wasn't invented yet) when in 1899 the Italian physicist, electrical engineer and radio amateur, **Guiglielmo Marconi**, a pioneer in wireless communications, was the first to succeed communicating via radio waves across the English Channel.



A little later on December 12th, 1901 Marconi was successful in the first ever radio connection over 2000 km between Cornwall in England and “**Signal Hill**” in Newfoundland in NE Canada. **G. Marconi received the Morse code letter S (three dots) which stood for “success” and was sent from Cornwall England to Signal Hill.**

For this feat Marconi used a 122 meter long wire antenna which was held aloft by a “Rokkaku Kite”.



Guiliano Marconi with his Rokkaku kite



Drawing of the “receiving station” in N.F.



Marconi's group struggling to get an antenna kite into the air. Signal Hill, St. John's Newfoundland, December, 1901.

There must have been a strong wind on that day to be able to anchor a kite that size on a 122 m long wire in the sky.

The picture shows Marconis helper trying to raise the kite into the air.

111 years later a small group of radio amateurs tried to set another record based on the earlier historic events.

First Ever Communication Via Radio Waves From Kite to Kite Across the English Channel

Radio amateurs succeeded in a first connection via radio waves between stations on opposing sides of the English Channel using vertical Marconi antennae fastened to a kite.

- For the first time on Saturday June 5th, 2010 (the anniversary of Marconi's historic event), at 15:03h GMT, between the amateur radio station ON/DL6IP-kite OP: Ingo from Zweibruecken in Blankenberge, BE, on the one side and the amateur station G4ROJ-kite, OP: Roger in Kidderminster near Worcester, GB, on the other side of the English Channel, succeeded in a QSO via voice from Kite to Kite on frequency 7.095 MHz, LSB.

The transmission power of each station was 100 watts. The signal and reception quality of both stations was an impressive RS 59+20dB.



Flow Power Sled in BLANKENBERGE, BE



Aerostat with helium filling in KIDDERMINSTER, GB

Both stations used 42 m long Marconi vertical antennae using kites as air anchors. The one in Blankenberge, BE, was held by a Flow Power Sled with a span of 4.5 m and the one in Kidderminster, GB, was carried by an Aerostat with helium filling (due to a lack of wind).



After this historical event both stations completed individual Europe-wide big pile-ups of more than two hours on different frequencies.



The mayor of Blankenberge, Ludo Monset along with the the city council representative Mr. Patrick De Klerck didn't want to miss this event and paid us a visit.

Many thanks!

If you want to know more about the subject of radio communication via antenna on a kite please visit following web address: <http://www.mydarc.de/dl6ip/kite%20antenna.html>

We thank our radio friends, Franz, DL4GBF, Ingo, DL6IP, the representatives of the city of BLANKENBERGE, <http://www.blankenberge-online.de> our friends the Belgian radio amateurs of BRA and OSB , <http://www.on6br.be> and especially radio friend Mike, ON3MVH as well as, Daniel, ON5DDG, President of BRA and Roger, G4ROJ <http://www.g4roj.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/> and his helpers in Kidderminster near Worcester, GB, for their participation and support without which this historic event wouldn't have been possible.

Blankenberge, BE, June 2010

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FLY Kite!



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