

Vladimir "Willy" Umanets, UA9BA

Willy started at Radioclub station UK9ACP in 1971 being 14 years old.

He became a member of UK9AAN in 1974 which was a club station of Chelyabinsk Polytechnic Institute. It was the brightest experience of learning things related to operating a big station on the air in everyday activities and in contests. That's where he learned English, both - spoken and written. He loved to go QRR on 20 meters with 65 foot boom 7 element yagi and a kW amplifier from the club station.

In 1978 Willy got his first individual call UA9AIS which changed to UW9AR later. When USSR broke apart in 1991, the UW series of prefixes went to Ukraine and he had to change his call to a Russian one. He chose UA9BA which he still has.