Nix.Camp 2021 to 2022

Tags	EVENTS NIX.CAMP
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Nix.Camp 2021

Nix.Camp was born out of a desire to meet up with other Nixxers participating in the Summer of Nix, and also to have the least corporate Nix event possible. In 2021, at the height of the pandemic, we had just one arrival, DavHau. Here he is, coding up a `flake.nix` whilst eating a Cadbury Flake® and enjoying the furniture.

Only the crumbliest, flakiest configs. Make NixOS taste like it never tasted before.

Our handmade, ergonomic desks come equipped with **STATE** of the art tools, keeping our participants happy and comfortable whilst coding.

With no agenda, no talks, only a common theme, we focused on having fun with Nix in our little venue. A once disused chapel in the midst of North Wales; the AstralShip. At this first camp, I learned a lot about Nix programming, Dave created dream2nix and we all played some Xonotic together. We also had mathematician Julian Todd over to attempt to teach us something about set theory, and fill gaps in our knowledge. Incidentally, we managed to install NixOS on his laptop.

Learning about the distinction between surjective, bijective and injective functions with Julian Todd (@goatchurch on twitter)

```
nix run nixpkgs#xonotic
```

Who are the organizers?

Nix.Camp is lovingly organized by Matthew Croughan (me) and Lee Hughes. We're both passionate NixOS contributors and evangelists. Lee plays drums, I play guitar. Together, we make a pretty cool team.

Nix.Camp 2022

Nix.Camp 2022 was the first Nix.Camp to have more than 1 attendee. It was a great success and improvement upon the predecessor. In total, we had 10 attendees, and I can honestly say it was one of the best times of my life thus far, rivaled only by NixCon 2022.

Cuisine

In addition to Cadbury Flake®, we were able to add more *spice* to the cuisine in the form of Nix & Kix, a conveniently named natural fruit juice, enhanced by cayenne peppers, which we could not resist keeping stock of.

We drank it all

Better than **Club-Mate**

All food was cooked up by our wonderful chef and in-house Buddhist, Leslie Hammond-Jones, who is pictured below playing Go with Isaac, in the Kitchen.

Leslie, the chef, playing Go with Isaac Shapira

Food at the table, as it was prepared each day

The Office

It wasn't all fun and games, as we did manage to get some work done in the office. Some PRs were made made to Nixpkgs, whilst https://horizon-haskell.net/ was worked on by Dan Firth.

- HAM radio packages were revitalized by Rob Hernandez and Paul Harvey
- Some attendees were mentored and taught about the NixOS Module system, and given an introduction on how to contribute to Nixpkgs for the first time
- Some attendees were taught the wonders of Flakes, and their machines were turned completely into a `flake.nix`

Nixxers hard at work

Dan working on Horizon-Haskell with Isaac Shapira

Conversation

Where there was no agenda or plan, conversation took over and was free-flowing.

The gang discovers Cobol on Wheelchair

Discussion about Elm, Pattern Matching and Concurrency between Isaac and Evan

Journeys

Journeys

We hired a mini-bus for the camp, and Lee graciously drove it around with us inside. Here's where we went.

Dinorwic Quarry

Dinorwic quarry - Wikipedia
Dinorwic quarry (din-OR-wig ; Welsh: ; also known as Dinorwig quarry) is a large former slate quarry, now home to the Welsh

en.wikipedia.org

Reservoir dogs, at the reservoir

Lee, talking about rocks with Karen

Intense RFC debate

Dan Firth scaling the quarry

Anglesey Barracks (Barics Môn)

Ruins of the Anglesey Barracks, Dinorwig

Ruins of the Anglesey Barracks, Dinorwig These cottages were built in the 1870s as housing for quarrymen who lived too far away to

historypoints.org

On the footpath back to the Astral Ship, it's possible to stop by this old landmark, so we did.

N I X

Barics Môn

Exploring Barics Môn

Snowdon

Ill prepared, but with plenty of style, we traveled ahead in our Nix Lab coats. When stopped and asked why we were wearing the lab coats, we'd simply say "Science". We had Brandon, a local friend, guide us up the mountain on this day. The weather was incredibly fortunate, and by the time we reached the top, the sun was shining and the sky was clear.

Team 1

The crew traveled to the base of Snowdon in two separate vehicles, we ended up with two separate teams, two journeys and two stories.

Frederik (FRidh) ready to embark

Robert and myself, at the beginning of the journey

At the halfway point with Paul and Robert

Booting NixOS on a Thinkpad, on the summit

Robert Hensing, Paul Harvey and myself reach the top of Snowdon

Team 2

This team was mainly comprised of the team from Nebulaworks who attended the camp. Frederik helpfully backtracked to meet up with Team 2, since we had no communication and were unsure if they had made it. Thankfully, they had!

Team 2 meet up, ready to travel to the summit

Matthew Ramirez of Nebulaworks and his partner, Karen

Team 1 meets Team 2 at the summit

Robert Hernandez of Nebula Works adorning the Nix Lab coat at the summit

Joshua Campbell of Nebulaworks also adorning the Nix Lab coat at the summit

Dan Firth doing his best mad scientist impression

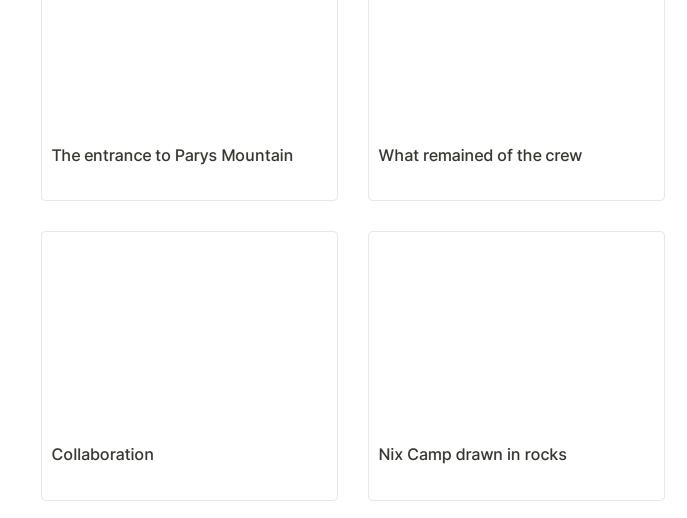# Paul's SOTA (Summit On the Air)

Summits On The Air - Wikipedia
Summits On The Air (SOTA) is an amateur radio operating award program launched in Great Britain in 2002 by John Linford. The aim
en.wikipedia.org

Paul is an amateur radio operator, (call sign M0SET) and had traveled up to the summit of Snowdon with us to capture the flag, so to speak, on behalf of Nix.Camp. The basic premise of SOTA is that you call out to at least 3 stations (other people with radios), speak with them for a moment and record the response. After at least 3 responses have been recorded, you have captured the summit. We successfully achieved that goal. On the way down, we broadcasted *NixCamp2022 leaving mt Snowdon nix.camp* via APRS, which is visible on aprs.fi

Paul beaconing his station via APRS on a Kenwood TH-D72 handheld

Recorded responses from stations participating in the SOTA

Beaconing for SOTA

Parys Mountain

Parys Mountain - Wikipedia
Parys Mountain (Welsh: Mynydd Parys) is located south of the town
of Amlwch in north east Anglesey, Wales. It is the site of a large

en.wikipedia.org

As the week drew to a close, we visited this old copper mine at sunset, but not before first dropping into Caernafon for an ice cream.

Picking up 99 Flake with the Nebulaworks team

Programmers point out a coincidence in naming

The entrance to Parys Mountain

What remained of the crew

Collaboration

Nix Camp drawn in rocks

Paddy's Bat Detector

By the time we had gotten down from Snowdon, Paddy, a good friend of Lee's had unexpectedly showed up and cooked us a sea bass, which was delicious.

As it happens, Paddy is a one-man army, similar to Tony Stark. He founded Goat Industries, which vends all sorts of advanced technology you'd expect to be really complicated, such as the AI Bat Detector he brought to demonstrate. And he manages to do it all in his man-cave, with a box of scraps.

Paddy's bat detector is a Python script that uses classifier algorithms to tell the difference between species of bats, using audio alone. And it's pretty good at it. On the software GUI image below, we can see that it had detected a Common Pipistrelle throughout the 24 hours it was left at the venue.

The bat detector uses a microphone, which we installed outside the chapel, hanging from a protrusion in the wall

The software GUI for the bat detector that Paddy created, all written in Python. Here it is indicating that it heard a Common Pipistrelle on many occasions, and a few UFOs

Drumming Session

Close to the end of the camp, Lee had spontaneously organized a drumming session, which brought us all together in an intense musical experience. The session was lead by his long time friend and mentor, Mark Evans. This took us by complete surprise. The chapel was filled with the sound of drumming. Some had taken a great liking to it and continued to play past midnight.

The circle of drums at its peak

Lee and Isaac drumming together

End

Evan Piro leading us out

The final day at the office   Isaac looking stoic enough to say goodbye

Nix.Camp drew to a close. Flakes were eaten, Nix & Kix was drank and plenty of
Nix code was written.

> 🚩 Links
> - https://twitter.com/nix_camp
> - https://nix.camp/
> - https://discourse.nixos.org/t/nix-camp-a-small-event-for-nix-
>   enthusiasts

nix.how