

# UKHAS Mailing List Proposal

Feedback: Randomskk in #highaltitude (irc.freenode.net) or adam@adamgreig.com

## Current Situation

The single mailing list is used both to announce launches and for technical (and other) discussion. Many people on the list simply want to hear about launches so they can track, and do not want the spam related to the discussion. Many other people evidently want the discussions and they're a good way to further the UKHAS community and knowledge. Additionally there has been more of a problem recently with off-topic posts or discussions bordering on personal affront.

## Proposed Position

UKHAS should promote all high altitude related activities, though especially high altitude ballooning.

It is desirable to have some way to announce launches and minor post-launch discussion (things like radio drift, recovery, links to video and photographs, etc.), ideally in a setting that people can subscribe to without getting many other unrelated emails.

It is also desirable to have in depth and detailed discussion of all things high altitude.

Finally, stronger moderation of all these discussions could prevent off-topic and personal messages, keeping all the discussions relevant to everyone.

Active moderation helps keep communities active and vibrant. Being too lax or permissive tends to lead to stagnation. See also: [http://lesswrong.com/lw/c1/wellkept\\_gardens\\_die\\_by\\_pacifism/](http://lesswrong.com/lw/c1/wellkept_gardens_die_by_pacifism/) However, strong moderation requires transparency. It would be important to be clear who the moderators are and to what policy they operate.

# Proposal

## UKHAS-launches

We rename the current UKHAS list to “UKHAS-launches”. This list thus keeps all the existing subscribers, and is only used for announcing new launches and subsequent immediately relevant discussion.

All new topics to the list are moderated, but replies are allowed automatically from existing members. Replies which go off the topic of this launch are not allowed, but

The group welcome message describes what is and is not allowed.

## UKHAS

A new list, named “UKHAS”, for general high altitude discussion. Anything related to high altitude activities is permitted.

Posts from existing approved members are automatically allowed. Replies or new threads which are not related to high altitude activities are not allowed.

The group welcome message describes what is and is not allowed.

## Moderation

A moderation policy is written detailing what will and will not be moderated, when users are approved, and what the consequences of violating the rules are (warning, un-approving, etc). Moderators are selected from the community and the list of current moderators is public, along with the moderation policy.

# **Proposed Moderation Policy**