

NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO



NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE

Email: ZL1GUD@proton.me

So why a FREE Amateur Radio Magazine?

I enjoy writing and have had over a hundred articles published, (mostly on adventure and survival) and having been a radio amateur since around 1990 as ZR1XZT, then ZS1GD and now ZL1GUD I believe that the amateur radio scene needs a kick in the pants and needs to attract more (young) people.

New Zealand Amateur Radio magazine is free and includes Product News, International Amateur Radio News, DIY projects, Interviews, POTA and SOTA news and DX Pedition news. Club news is for the clubs and will not be included in the magazine.

If you want to be featured or have a project that you want to feature then email me the details and we will include it.

Greg
ZL1GUD

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Note: Right click on text for link to website.

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This issue:

- Page 01 Introduction
- Page 02 Tactical 7m mast
- Page 03 From the Editor
- Page 04 It's all in a name
- Page 05 10 Things to do
- Page 06 DX On Air
- Page 07 YLs
- Page 08 Nets and Contests
- Page 09 Spiderbeam yagi
- Page 10 Small Garden Antenna
- Page 11 Tech Take-Aways
- Page 12 Morse Code
- Page 13 POTA Rick ZL3RIK
- Page 15 60m Band
- Page 16 Featured Shacks
- Page 17 Portable Ops.
- Page 18 HF Propagation
- Page 19 Big Antennas
- Page 20 OZ & NZ Maps
- Page 21 OL SDR Radio
- Page 22 Yaesu FTX 1
- Page 23 FT8 is it real Radio
- Page 24 Holy Cluster
- Page 25 C4FM
- Page 26 BYO 1:1 Balun
- Page 27 Modes
- Page 28 What is DMR
- Page 29 YL Fairy tale
- Page 30 POTA News
- Page 31 History of POTA
- Page 32 WWV Station
- Page 33 Pedestrian mobile
- Page 34 Playing at work
- Page 35 For Sale & Wanted

In a world of texting



We choose to
Transmit



LOTS OF STOCK

Tactical 7000hds - compact heavy-duty 7 m (23 ft) mast

www.thehamshack.co.nz Sotabeams NZ Distributor



Features:

- Heavy gauge pole sections—the perfect balance of strength, stiffness and weight for more demanding applications
- Super short packed length for easy transport in a rucksack
- Fits diagonally in most aircraft carry-on baggage (check before flying!)
- The very best extended length for tactical use in extreme conditions
- Telescopic - perfect for rapid deployment
- Military colours for low visual signature
- Camouflage carry bag with draw string
- Built-in base shock absorber
- Non-conducting low-loss fibreglass construction
- Hollow top-section allows wires to be fed through
- Screw-cap base allows field repairs and section swap-outs
- Perfect for use with our Band Hopper antenna range

"Every serious portable operator needs a Tactical 7000hds in their armoury"

Detailed Specifications:

Extended length: 7 metres (23 ft). Lengths approximate

Packed length: 59 cm (23 inches)

Number of sections: 14

Wall thickness: at least 1.5 mm (0.06 inches) bottom, at least 0.8 mm (0.031 inches) top. Actual thickness is usually a little larger than these minimums.

Weight: 1.5 kg approx - this can vary a bit between batches.

Mast Material: heavy-duty glass-fiber composite (non-conducting)

Tube diameter: top 4mm (0.16 inches) base 52mm (2.05 inches)

Base cap diameter: 64mm (2.5 inches) as of October 2020, 61 mm (2.4 inches) for older masts

Tube colour: Pantone 19-0622 TPX Military Olive

Mast sections hollow to the top

Supplied with camouflage* carry bag with drawstring

High impact foam shock absorber built into base.

Notes:

The mast is made of Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) = Fiberglass. This is an insulator with excellent RF properties (very low loss).

The packed length can be reduced to 58.2 cm by removing the top and bottom caps - useful in some airline carry-on bags. The maximum dimension for an airline carry-on bag (56 x 35 x 22) is 69.5 cm diagonally bottom right to top left.

Friction lock: pull each section firmly with a twisting motion for best lock. When erecting always start with the smallest section. When taking down always start with the largest section.

Mast sections may be removed by unscrewing the endcap at the bottom of the mast, pulling out the shock absorber and removing unwanted sections. Always replace the shock absorber before use.

Some masts may have a few small paintwork defects (scratches or marks). However, these should not affect the structural integrity of the mast, just the visual appearance, and are in most cases not very noticeable.

Guying

Multi Function Guying kit

The following guying rings fit the Tactical 7000:- Tactical Guying ring 22 mm, Tactical Guying ring 35.5 mm

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From the Editor

The last month has been interesting and busy. I have started a factory building aluminium and wire antennas and we currently produce almost 20 antennas. Currently the only antenna manufacturers in New Zealand (as far as I know).

The design, research, fabricating of prototypes and testing is all done in New Zealand and so far both the aluminium horizontal dipole and linked wire dipole have had excellent results.

The aluminium dipole was set for 20m and running 20 watts we got a 5/7 from DL5RBW off the side of his log periodic and he was running 1kw. We also had a great report from VK4BLE. By sliding the aluminium elements to the marked lengths the antenna can resonate on 20m/17m/15m/12m/10m. During the design process the application we had in mind was field days, DxPeditions and POTA activations (although it can be used as a base antenna with or without a rotator).

The Linked Dipole can be operating in 2 minutes and is preset for 40m/20m/15m/10m and by plugging in the elements it takes seconds to change band. During the test with the balun at 6m above ground level and with the ends only 1m off the ground I made 24 contacts of which 18 were 5/9 to 5/9+20. The application is field days, DxPeditions and POTA activations.

We have a range of permanent Base Station (Home) wire antennas fabricated from Stainless Steel to ensure long life in the elements.



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Ham Radio - what's in a name

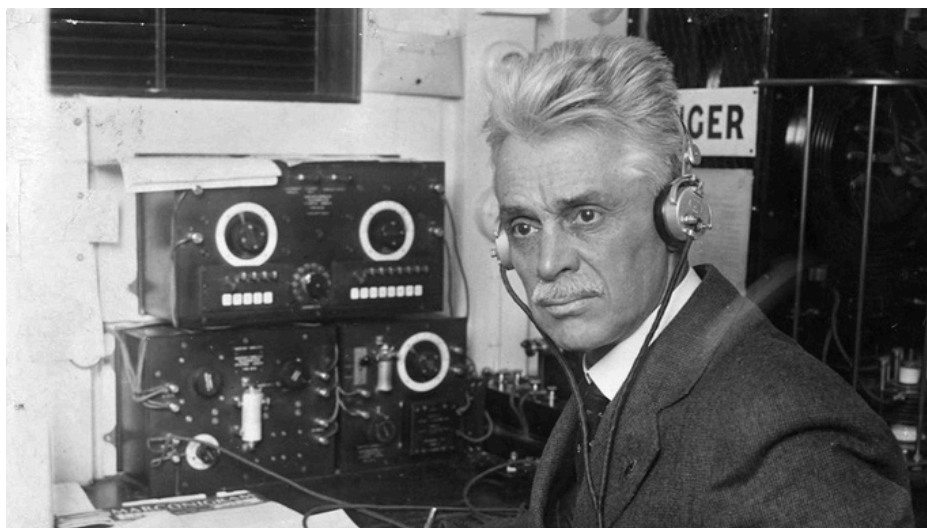


In 1873, James Clerk Maxwell presented his theory of the electromagnetic field. In 1901 Guglielmo Marconi communicated across the Atlantic with a radio device using high power and giant antennas. To curb interference, Congress approved the Radio Act of 1912, which required amateurs to be licensed and restricted to the single wavelength of 200 meters.

The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station CALL of the first amateur wireless station operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy, and Poogie Murray. At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY". Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "HY-AL-MY", using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1901 some confusion resulted between signal from amateur wireless station "HY-ALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO". They then decided to use only the first letter of each name and the station CALL became "HAM".

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity.

In 1914 the [American Radio Relay League](#) was founded by Hiram Percy Maxim, who found that messages could be sent more reliably over long distances if relay stations were organized. Transatlantic transmitting and receiving tests began in 1921 and by July 1960 the first two-way contact via the Moon took place on 1296 MHz.



Hiram Percy Maxim (September 2, 1869 – February 17, 1936) was an American radio pioneer and inventor, and co-founder (with Clarence D. Tuska) of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).

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10 Incredible Things You Can Do With Your Ham Radio License



Ham radio, or amateur radio, isn't just a hobby—it's a versatile tool for communication, innovation, and global connection. Whether you're speaking with astronauts on the International Space Station, coordinating emergency services during a crisis, or experimenting with cutting-edge radio technology, a *ham radio license* opens doors to a world of opportunities. This guide dives deep into the most exciting and practical ways to use your ham radio license.

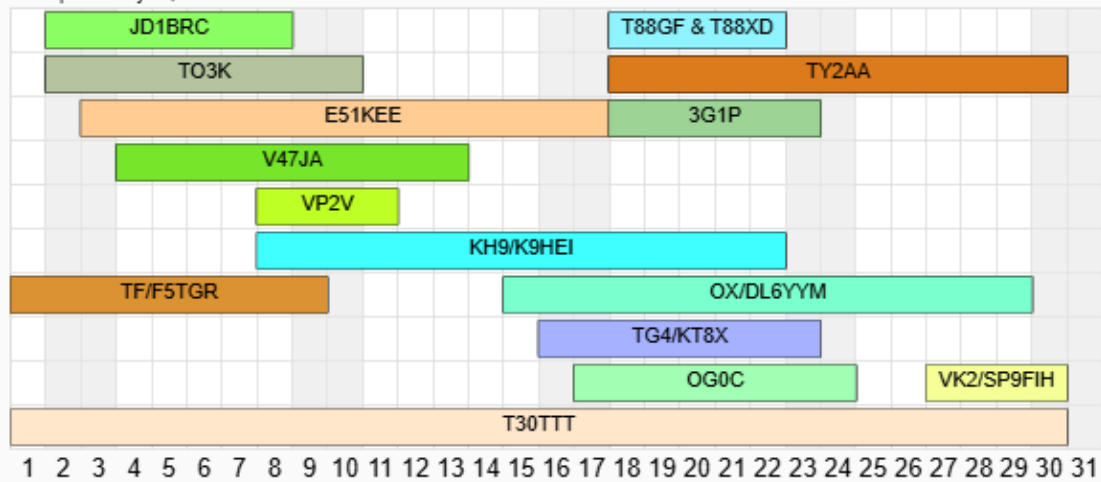
- Local Communications with Handheld Radios - Hiking, Comms around town.
- Communications via repeaters
 - For example, during emergencies or public events, repeaters ensure seamless communication between volunteers and organizers.
 - Participate in scheduled nets for group communication.
 - Maintain reliable contact during power outages with solar-powered repeaters.
- Get your HF privileges
 - Communicate with operators across continents.
 - Join global nets for discussions and updates.
 - Experiment with different antenna configurations to optimize performance.
- Public Service and Emergency Comms
 - Ham radio plays an indispensable role during emergencies when traditional communication networks fail.
 - In a disaster scenario, ham radio operators can:
 - Relay urgent information to emergency responders.
 - Coordinate supply drops and aid distribution.
 - Provide real-time updates on infrastructure conditions.
- POTA and SOTA
 - Portable ham radio operating combines technical skills with outdoor adventure. Programs like Parks on the Air (POTA), Summits on the Air (SOTA), and Islands on the Air (IOTA) offer unique challenges and rewards.
 - POTA: Activate a national or state park and log contacts from your portable setup.
 - SOTA: Climb to a mountain summit and make radio contacts from elevated terrain.
 - IOTA: Travel to a remote island and become a sought-after contact in the global ham radio community.
- Ham Radio Contests & Awards
 - Ham radio contests, also known as Radio Sport, are exhilarating events where operators aim to make as many contacts as possible within a specific timeframe.
 - Field Day: A global event where operators set up portable stations and simulate emergency communication scenarios.
 - DX Contests: Make contacts with rare and distant locations.
- Mobile Radio
 - A mobile ham radio setup can transform your vehicle into a communication hub, especially during road trips or off-road adventures.
- Talking via Satellites & the ISS
 - Ham radio isn't confined to Earth. Satellites and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program provide opportunities for space-based communication.
 - LEO Satellites: Low Earth Orbit satellites serve as repeaters.
 - ISS Contacts: Scheduled communication sessions with astronauts.
 - Backup Communication for ISS: Ham radio acts as a secondary communication system during emergencies.
- Digital & Other Modes
 - Digital modes bring precision and efficiency to ham radio communication.
 - FT8: Ideal for weak signals and long-distance communication.
 - Winlink: Enables email-style communication over radio.
 - APRS: Share GPS locations and short text messages.
- DIY Projects and Experimentation
 - Ham radio thrives on creativity and experimentation. Enthusiasts build, modify, and innovate to push the boundaries of radio technology.
 - Design custom antennas for specific bands.
 - Build radios from DIY kits.
 - Program microcontrollers for radio automation.
 - Launch weather balloons with telemetry equipment.
 - Hook up an antenna to a kite and see how far you can talk.

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DX WORLD.net
FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE

Last update: July 26, 2025



Edited by MM0NDX

AUGUST

© IK8LOV Max Laconca



VK2/SP9FIH – LORD HOWE ISLAND



Well known DXpeditioner, world traveller and winner of several Cass Awards, Janusz SP9FIH informs DX-WORLD that his next activity is going to be from Lord Howe Island. QRV as VK2/SP9FIH during August 27 to September 13, 2025.



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YL's Becoming Radio Amateurs



Women In Amateur Radio

Amateur Radio Is A Hobby For Men And Women

Amateur Radio is a communications hobby that throughout its history has been dominated by men, well times are changing and more and more women are becoming involved in the varied aspects of the hobby.

Amateur Radio offers a chance for the entire family to enjoy activities together. With the introduction in Australia of the three tier licensing system and especially the entry level Foundation license. Its easy to make a start in the hobby without having great technical knowledge.

Many women combine amateur radio with other activities such as camping and bush walking.

Others like to feel that they are able to share interests with their spouses and family.

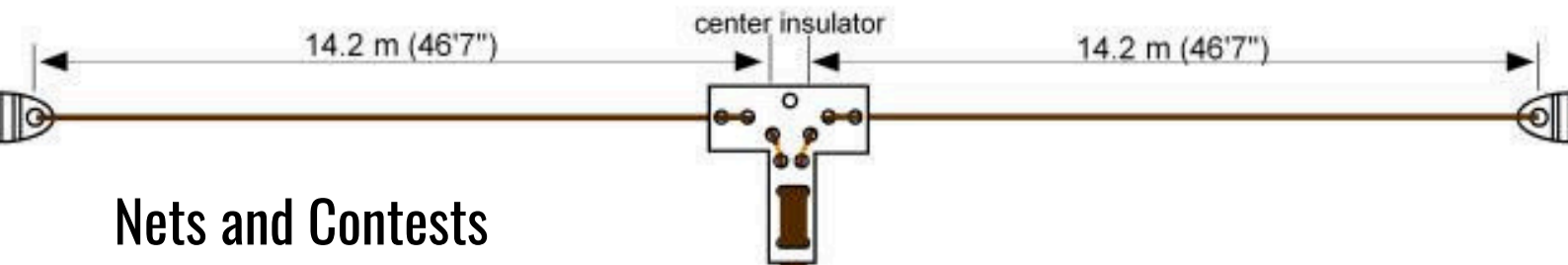
1898 - 1982 Eunice Randall, 1CDP and W1MPP Around 19 years of age, Eunice Randall built her own amateur radio station (ER). In 1919, Eunice became the first announcer, on-air, at AMRAD (1XE/WGI), broadcasting station, in Boston, Massachusetts.

1914, First Canadian YL Wireless Radio Operator Miss M. S. Colville, XDD, of Bowmanville, ON

1915, First U.S. YL Emma Chandler, 8NH/W8NH of St. Mary's, Ohio, USA Featured in QST issue Oct. 1916



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Nets and Contests

HF SSB Nets

AREC Section Leaders - 3900 kHz USB, 3rd Monday of each month at 2020 NZT

Alpine Fault Net - First Sunday of each month on 7115 kHz LSB at 0930 NZT and on 3605 kHz LSB at 2030 NZT.

NZART Branch 03 Auckland Western Suburbs - 3650 kHz, Fridays at 2000 NZT

NZART Branch 05 Christchurch - 3650 kHz, Mon-Fri at 1600 NZT

NZART Branch 10 Franklin - 3700 kHz, Sundays at 0900 NZT

NZART Branch 12 Hamilton - 3579 kHz, Mondays at 1930 NZT

NZART Branch 16 Horowhenua - 3720 kHz, Wednesdays at 2030 NZT

NZART Branch 18 Hutt Valley - 7075 kHz, Sundays at 0900 NZT

NZART Branch 20 Manawatu - 3570 kHz, Sundays at 0900 NZT

NZART Branch 22 Marlborough - 3876 kHz, Tuesdays & Saturdays at 2030 NZT

NZART Branch 26 Nelson - 3890 kHz, Sundays at 0900 NZT

NZART Branch 27 New Plymouth - 3660/7120 kHz, 1st of each month at 2030 NZT

NZART Branch 28 Whangarei - 3585 kHz, Sundays at 2030 NZT

NZART Branch 30 Otago - 3613 kHz, 1st Monday at 2000 NZT

NZART Branch 35 South Otago - 3585 kHz, Mondays at 2030 NZT

NZART Branch 41 Thames - 3850 kHz, Sundays at 0900 NZT

NZART Branch 42 Titahi Bay - 3710 kHz, Sundays at 2000 NZT

NZART Branch 50 Wellington - 7050 kHz, Sundays at 0930 NZT

NZART Branch 53 Te Puke - 3690 kHz, Sundays at 0830 NZT

NZART Branch 61 Central Otago - 3600 kHz, 2nd Thursday at 2000 NZT

NZART Branch 62 Reefton-Buller - 3600 kHz, Saturdays at 2030 NZT

NZART Branch 80 Hibiscus Coast - 3692 kHz, Mondays at 2000 NZT

NZART Branch 83 Raglan - 3608 kHz, Saturdays at 0830 NZT. Sunday sessions at 1900 NZT appear to be no longer operating (30/6/24)

NZART Branch 89 Radio Electronics Group - 3615 kHz, Thursdays at 2000 NZT



Competition consol
for the Icom IC 7300
available from
www.thehamshack.co.nz

Canterbury Branch 68 Wednesday 2000hrs 3.730MHz Wednesday Grant ZL2G

Geek Net - 3655 kHz Wednesdays at 2000 NZT. Contact ZL1GKB for information.

Homebrew Net - 7105 kHz (summer) or 3760 kHz (winter), daily at 1730 NZT

New Zealand Amateurs Club Net - 3700 kHz, Sundays at 1930 NZT. Appears to be no longer operating (30/6/24)

Old Timers' Club (OTC) - 3870 kHz, Mondays at 2030 NZT

Ten Ten International (Down Under Chapter) - 28530 kHz, Saturdays at 1030 NZT (all year)

ANZA Net - 14183 kHz, daily at 0500Z. For DXers.

HF AM Nets

OTC (Old Timers' Club) - 3850 kHz, Sundays at 1030 NZT

SPAM (Society for the Preservation of Amplitude Modulation)

Sunday: 7125 kHz at 1600 NZT

Monday: 3850 kHz at 1130 NZT

Wednesday: 3850 kHz at 1130 NZT

Friday: 3850 kHz at 2000 NZST or 2030 NZDT

Canterbury 2M SSB Net 144.200MHz every Tuesday from 2000hrs (vertical polarisation)

Canterbury 6M Net 3850 6M Repeater Thursdays from 2000hrs (vertical polarisation)

Canterbury Area Net 5625 Repeater, 2000hrs on Sundays

Canterbury Branch 68 Wednesday 2000hrs 3.730MHz Wednesday Grant ZL2GD

National Broadcast last Sunday of the month at 2000hrs on 3.900MHz, National System, 6975 and 705 Repeaters

Preparedness Net (South Island) - 3705MHz Monday nights 20:45 hrs Greg ZL1GUD

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spiderbeam

high performance lightweight antennas

NEW ZEALAND AGENTS
WWW.THEHAMSHACK.CO.NZ

PRE ASSEMBLED SPIDERBEAM YAGI 20-17-15-12-10M HD ANTENNA



Bands: 20m / 17m / 15m / 12m / 10m (optional 40m add)

Nr. of Elements: 3 / 2 / 3 / 2 / 4

Forward Gain at 10m height [dBi]: 11.7 / 10.5 / 12.3 / 10.5 / 12.6

Front/Back ratio [dB]: 15-20 / 20-25 / 20-25 / 10-12 / 18-22

SWR: < 1.5 / < 1.5 / < 2 / < 1.5 / < 2

Max. Power: 2000 W PEP / balun is included

Impedance: 50 Ohms / single feedline
Boom length: 10m (33 ft)

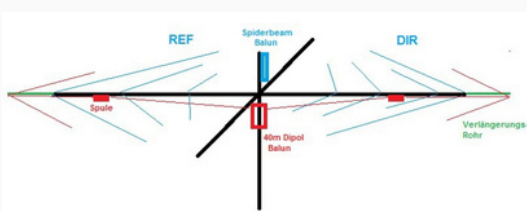
Turning Radius: 5m (16 ft)

Max. Ø standpipe: 60mm (2,36 inch)

Wind load area: 0.35 sq-m (3.8 sq-ft)

Weight: 11.5kg (25 lbs)

Transport Size: 120x27x18cm (47x11x7 inch)



The Heavy Duty Spiderbeam is a specially reinforced version, optimized for permanent installation at home (see chapter 4 of our construction guide PDF). Doubling the wall thickness of the aluminium and fiberglass parts added a lot of extra ruggedness to the design, making it strong enough to permanently survive severe weather conditions for many years. All parts are made of high quality materials resistant to weather, UV rays and corrosion.

The well proven electrical concept remains unchanged: 5 monobanders are interlaced on one boom, forming a highly efficient 5-band yagi. At 11.5kg this full size beam is still a lightweight, compared to many other permanent yagis in the same performance class.

ATTENTION: this is the partially prefabricated antenna. The wire set was measured, cut and pre-assembled by hand to be able to attach it to the spreaders. You will receive all components and the complete wire set ready wound on a plastic spool. This saves you the hours of preparation and you can devote yourself entirely to the construction of the antenna on site.



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ANTENNA FOR A SMALL GARDEN

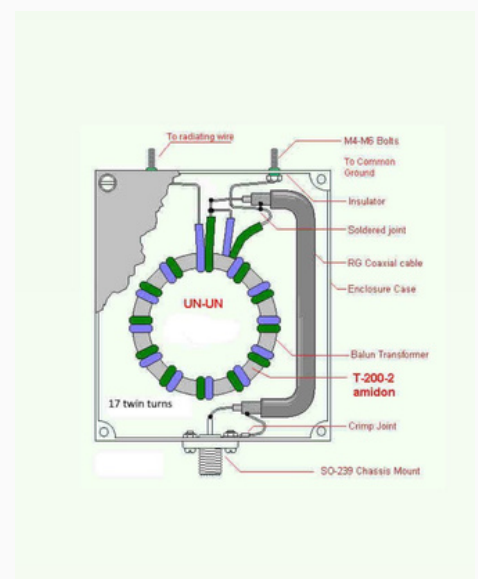
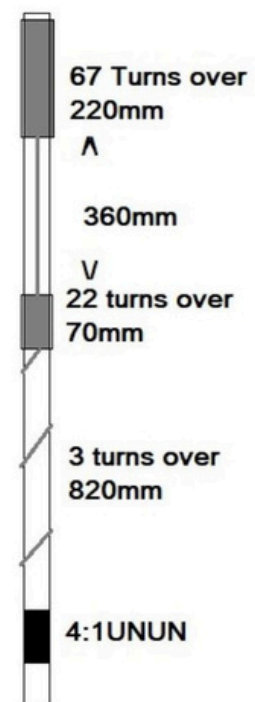
Making Waves – A DIY HF Antenna for the smallest spaces.

Is your garden the size of a postage stamp? Or maybe you live in a flat/apartment with just a balcony, then this could be the antenna for you to get on the air using HF frequencies. We all know that an HF dipole for 40m (7MHz) is going to be 20m (66ft) in length and not everyone has the available space to fit one in (hell, a 1/4 wave vertical is going to be 10m (33ft) long and may require planning from your local authority. So how about a vertical antenna that is only 1.7m in length and covers all HF amateur radio frequencies from 7MHz to 28MHz via your ATU? Impossible I hear you say, not at all – read on to see how it is done....

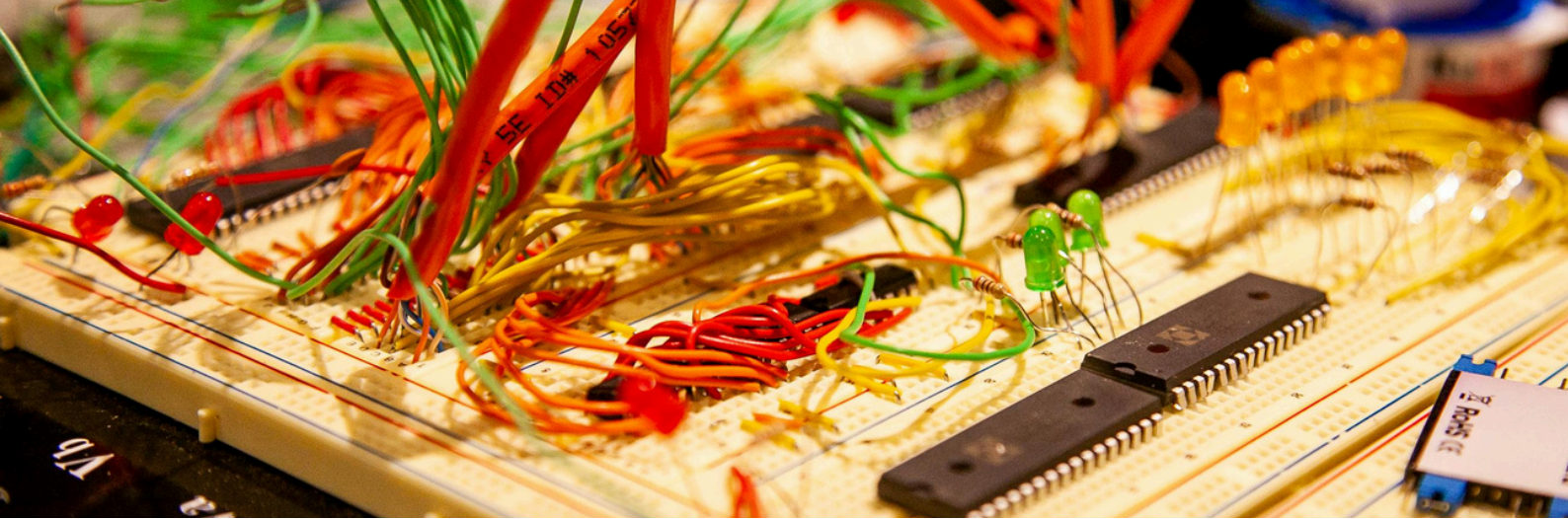
What will you need? Not much really, you will need a length of plastic pipe, 1.70m long, 41mm in diameter – this is sold in the local hardware stores as 40mm waste pipe but be careful, 40mm is the inside diameter and it is available in either 41mm or 43mm outside diameter – 13.6m of 1.5mm insulated copper wire, some 20mm long cable ties (200 * 3.6) and a 4:1 UNUN.

Effectively, take One end of your wire and secure it to one end of the 1.7m pipe using one of the cable ties. Wind on 67 turns of the wire over a length of 220mm and secure with a cable tie (insulating tape can also be used). Now drop the wire vertically for a length of 360mm and secure again. Wind on 22 turns (in the same direction as previously) over a length of 70mm and secure again. Then wind three turns, wide spaced over 820mm (and secure again leaving the end free. This end then needs attaching to your 4:1 UNUN.

Post of:
<https://m0cvoantennas1.wordpress.com/.../making-waves-a-.../>



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TECHNICAL TAKE AWAYS

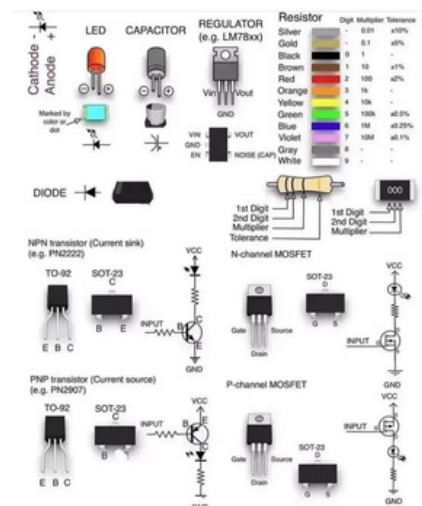
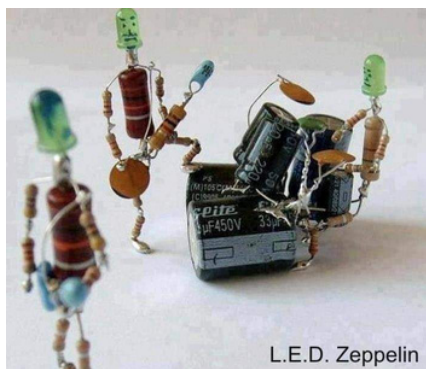
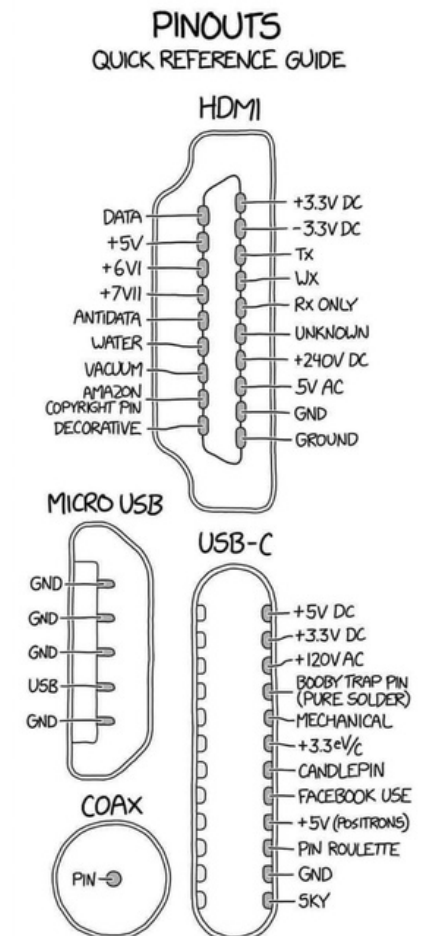
PHONETIC ALPHABET

INTERNATIONAL MORSE CODE

A	ALPHA	..-
B	BRAVO	---..
C	CHARLIE	---..
D	DELTA	..-.
E	ECHO	..
F	FOXTROT	..-.
G	GOLF	---.
H	HOTEL
I	INDIA	..
J	JULIET	..---
K	KILO	-.--
L	LIMA	..-..
M	MIKE	--
N	NOVEMBER	-. -
O	OSCAR	---
P	PAPA	..-..
Q	QUEBEC	---..
R	ROMEO	-. -
S	SIERRA	...-
T	TANGO	-
U	UNIFORM	..-
V	VICTOR	...-
W	WHISKEY	---.
X	X-RAY	-. -
Y	YANKEE	-. -
Z	ZULU	---..

CAPACITORS

	3,3		1000
	7,5		10000
	10		68000
	15		0,1
	100		1,0
	240		2,2





MORSE CODE FISTS DOWN UNDER

QRS International Flight Contest 2025

A light-weight QRS CW contest with a difference.

We justifiably blame old Sol for the state of the ionosphere, and there's no end in sight. Instead of sitting around powerless while he erupts laughing, let's adopt a terrestrial solution to continue improving CW competence by sending sound files over the internet. On offer is an eleven week CW contest using only earth-bound resources, but still with options for RF if you wish.

The contest proper kicks off on 18 June, however everything needed to become familiar with how it works is already available online.

Go to [QRS International Flight Contest 2025](#) for a front-row seat.

Even the greenest of newbies need not fear speed. Directions are provided to a clever facility capable of effecting up to 50 % speed reduction without any change of pitch. Sound files may be cascaded to make it even slower. Really quick and easy compared to the likes of 'Audacity'.

All entrants will receive a printable Certificate of Participation after the contest closes on **03 September**. Questions to zl3tk@qsl.net

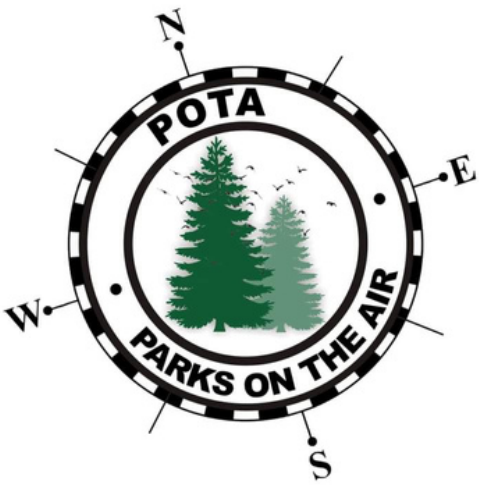
*right click for link

- 10 flights
- 11 weeks
- In your own time
- 160 points potential
- Award Certificate
- QRM and stress-free
- Great CW experience

QRS International Flight Contest 2025



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RICK ZL3RIK

I was born & raised in Christchurch & my first association with radio transmissions began in the early eighties when my wife & I obtained a Yaesu FRG 7000 short wave receiver. I remember it had lots of lights, switches, knobs & dials. All very fascinating. Many an hour was spent listening to broadcast stations around the world &, after sending them a swl report, we would receive a qsl card, sometimes with a small gift enclosed. We also found that tuning to around 7Mhz, we could hear people talking in “duck talk”. Of course I now realise we were listening to ham radio on SSB but at the time it was a great mystery to us & it took us some time to find out about the upper & lower side bands. One thing it did lead us to, like a lot of nowadays hams, was cb radio on 26Mhz. Unfortunately it was about that time when cb started to get a bit undesirable & when I managed to get my hands on a 27Mhz ssb set it started to rekindle my interest again even though it was only for a short while. I remember having a three element delta loop. I couldn't tell in what direction it pointed but I certainly had a lot of fun contacting other operators around the world. An unannounced visit from the local radio inspector convinced me to cease operations although he did compliment me on my antenna!

Fast forward to 2017. My older brother had already passed his amateur radio licence some years back, I was now retired & looking for a new hobby so to cut a long story short, I sat & passed my amateur licence. I spent my 1st three months on repeaters, making contacts, making simple antennas, making mistakes etc etc. I think we've all been down that road but it was around 2018 that I met the late Andrew White, ZL3CC, who introduced me to SOTA chasing which developed from there to SOTA activating which I enjoyed very much although I must admit, age was starting to tell on me. I'm proud to say though, I have a couple of “8 pointers” under my belt both done at the age of 70 years plus.

In 2021 the NZART Lakes award was revamped with new lakes added & the activation zones were also altered. I took to activating these lakes like a duck to water, (excuse the pun), & even went so far as to travel around the lower half of the South Island not only activating, but also meeting other hams where I could.

In Mid 2023 the NZART Parks award followed suit & after lots of discussion, the brand new Coastal Lights Award was announced. Roly, ZL1BQD in his role as the New Zealand Manager for the International Parks, added his support by adding even more parks to the international scene. I don't think it could've been imagined what a resounding success these new awards were in getting hams both young & old, out in the field. Before the awards were redone, we would call it a great activation by getting five or six contacts in the log. Now it's not uncommon to get that many in the first couple of minutes & the pileup continues for some six or seven minutes.

I also enjoy Dxing both for that elusive new country & chasing Dxpeditons wherever they might be. I got great encouragement from Bill, ZL3NB, now SK. Bill was on the DXCC Honour Roll so he certainly knew his stuff & he was also a very firm but fair tutor in helping me learn & send CW. We would send back & forth on 60M & liaise on 2M simplex. I remember one evening as I practised sending my call sign over & over again, I could hear a faint cw signal calling me. “There's somebody calling me Bill. What should I do?” I nervously asked on 2M. “Well you better answer him.” was Bill's reply. “But, he's got a Russian call sign. You answer him.” I pleaded. It's you he's calling so enjoy your first official contact.” was Bill's firm reply. Somewhere in Russia there is a ham who missed out on getting a contact with me!

Early in my ham career I was introduced to competitions, my first one being the Jock White Field Day back in 2018. Being a newcomer to the sport I certainly made a lot of mistakes but there were some good mentors in the team & with encouragement from them & others, I learnt from those mistakes. I'm now a regular participant in international competitions mainly on SSB & FT8 but I now do the occasional ones on CW. Thanks Bill.

I can usually be found mainly on HF between 40M & 10M with occasional forays onto other bands depending on how the propagation is fairing.



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60m Band Report

By GIOVANNI JOHN LISIGNOLI
ZL1PO

ciao all,

Just a little about myself. I am retired from 48 years in the automotive electrical engineering industry and proclaim to be a self confessed HF SSB junkie with a fetish for HF mobile ops..

After many years of SW and CB I sat and passed the HAM exam in 1991 with callsign ZL1UST..In 2004 I changed my callsign to ZL1PO.

My preferred bands are 160,80,40,12,11,10,2m and 70cm. In 2018 I jumped onto the 60m bandwagon when one had to register with NZART. I used my trusty Yaesu FT817ND and a dedicated 60m 1/2 wave inverted V antenna at home..From the mobile I use a Barrett 550R into a Barrett 910 auto tune antenna.

Considering the number of registered 60m band users listed on the NZART register page, 60m SSB contacts have been few and far between. Those who I did make contact with were the occasional POTA/SOTA gals and guys plus a handful of other dedicated 60m users. For the very first time I heard some faint DX early this year around 1900 UTC. FT8 ,which is not my cup of tea, was and is still a useful band opening indicator. The many KiwiSDR receivers across ZL land are also very useful tools. Inter ZL conditions are mostly during daylight hours with the occassional contact stretching into the muid evening.

My current home station used is a ICOM IC705 and the antenna now is a flat top 1/2 wave wire dipole stapled to the 2m boundary fence which works surprisingly well. Urban QRM is a pain in the backside but is managed with a bhi DSP speaker. My QRZ.com logbook shows over 60 contacts on this band. All I can say to those with 60m capable equipment is get some copper in the air and tuned for the 60m band then pick up that microphone and announce yourself. Keep calling and don't ever give up.

In other words folks abide by the old adage "Use it or loose it"

73

de ZL1PO

GIOVANNI JOHN LISIGNOLI

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FEATURED SHACKS

Kiwi & Oz Hams - send me your shack pics for inclusion ZL1GUD@proton.me



PORTABLE SETUPS

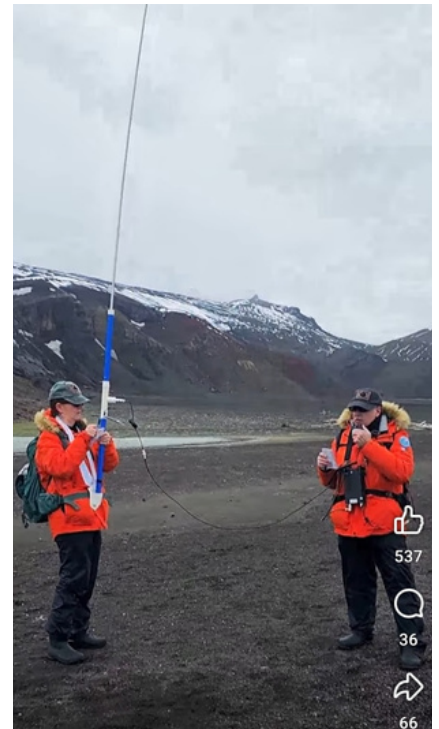


Ham radio portable operations are becoming increasingly popular, as it allows enthusiasts to take their hobby on the go. Whether you're participating in a Parks on the Air (POTA) event or simply enjoying a leisurely activity like hiking or camping, portable operation enables you to stay connected with fellow Hams while being immersed in the great outdoors.

Setting up a portable station involves carrying the necessary equipment, such as a power source and an efficient antenna, to your operating location. Ease of transport, reliable performance, and adaptability are essential factors to consider when selecting your portable gear. With the right selection and proper planning, you can enjoy a seamless and hassle-free Ham radio experience, no matter where your adventures take you.

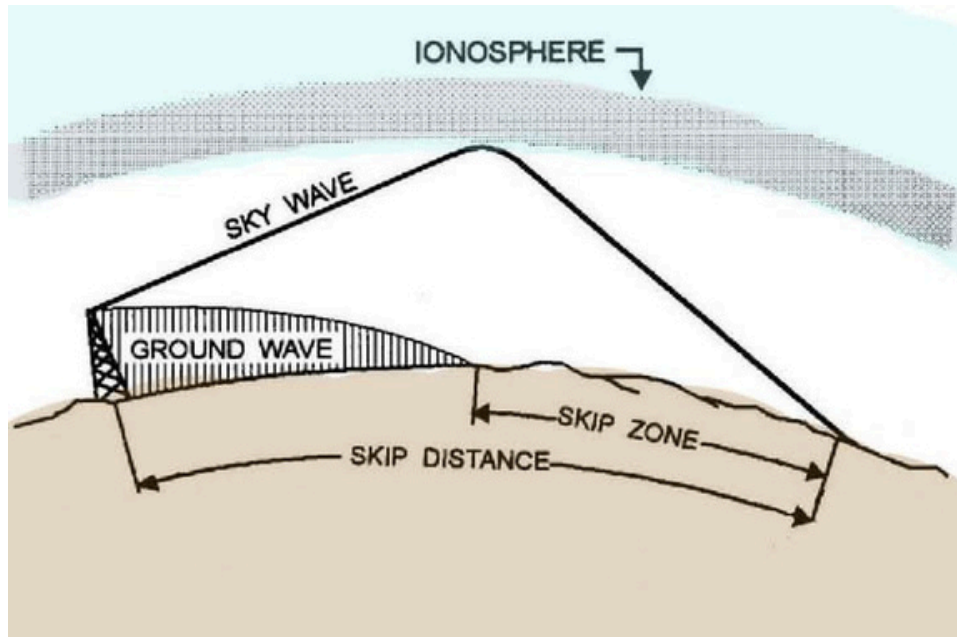
Efficient portable operation requires not only the right gear but also the knowledge to make the most out of limited resources. Having a checklist for different types of operating scenarios and understanding the basics of portable off-grid Ham radio operations can go a long way in enhancing your communication experience in various settings. Make sure to take the time to research and prepare, so you can fully enjoy the benefits of portable Ham radio operation.

<https://hamradioplanet.com/ham-radio-portable-operation-tips/>



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HF Propagation



Overview of HF Propagation

High-frequency (HF) propagation refers to how radio waves between 3 and 30 MHz travel through the Earth's atmosphere. This is crucial for amateur radio operators and anyone involved in long-distance communication.

Key Concepts

Skywave Propagation

- Definition: Radio waves above 2 MHz interact with the ionosphere, allowing signals to be refracted back to Earth.
- Skip Zone: The area where ground waves weaken before skywaves become effective, making communication difficult.
- NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave): A technique that transmits signals at steep angles to overcome skip zone issues, ideal for regional communication.

Ionospheric Regions

The ionosphere is divided into several regions, each affecting radio propagation differently:

Region Description

D

Lower region, affects lower frequencies

E

Intermediate region, impacts propagation

F1

Upper region, important for medium distances

F2

Most significant for long-distance communication

Day-Night Variation

- Daytime: D and E regions are more active, affecting lower frequencies.
- Nighttime: The F region dominates, enhancing long-distance communication.

Factors Influencing HF Propagation

Solar Activity

- Sunspots: Increase ionospheric electron density, improving long-distance communication.
- Solar Minimum: Reduces ionospheric reflectivity, making communication harder.

Frequency Selection

Different frequencies perform better under varying conditions:

Frequency Range Best Use

3-7 MHz

Long-distance communication at night or low solar activity

10-14 MHz

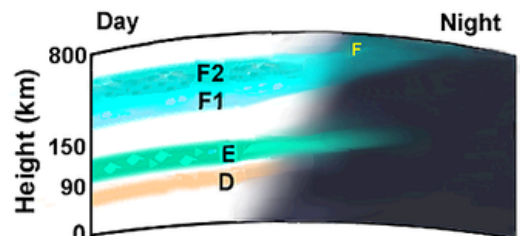
Good for daytime communication

24-29.7 MHz

Less effective, especially at night

Geomagnetic Disturbances

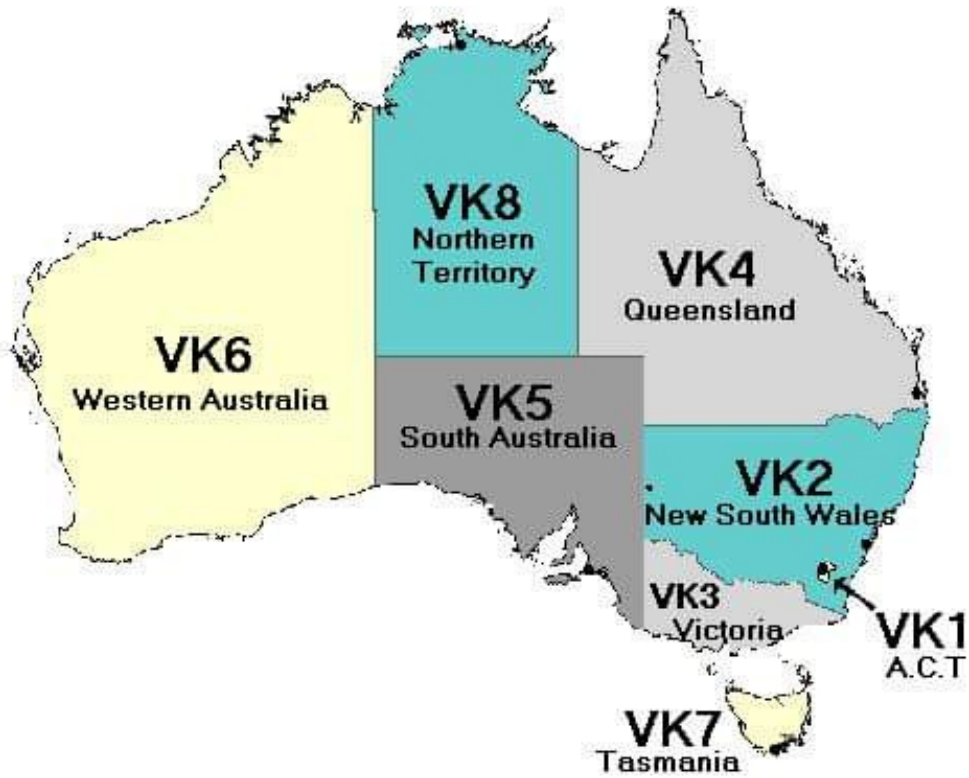
Solar flares can disrupt HF propagation by affecting the ionosphere, leading to variable communication conditions. Understanding these factors helps in selecting the right frequencies and techniques for effective HF communication.



Big Amateur Radio Antennas



Australia



New Zealand



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OL SDR

OL-SDR represents the pinnacle of innovation in the field of SDR radios, offering unrivaled sophistication and flexibility. Just look at its rear panel, which offers a wide range of connections and functionality, embodying the complexity and power behind this extraordinary technological solution.

With an internal structure centered around a next-generation FPGA, OL-SDR is distinguished by unprecedented versatility and control. This extreme adaptability and operational precision position it as a versatile transceiver in a diverse range of high-demand operating contexts, where the need for extreme performance is critical.

Its internal architecture and advanced external interface are designed to meet the most demanding needs of the most sophisticated operators. OL-SDR is an ideal option for those who require maximum customization and flexibility, offering a level of functionality adaptable to a wide range of specialized applications.

Here are some of the key features of the OL-SDR:

Unrivaled sophistication and flexibility: The OL-SDR is packed with features that make it the most sophisticated and flexible SDR radio on the market.

Wide range of connections and functionality: The OL-SDR's rear panel offers a wide range of connections and functionality, making it ideal for a variety of applications.

Next-generation FPGA: The OL-SDR is powered by a next-generation FPGA, which provides unprecedented versatility and control.

Extreme adaptability and operational precision: The OL-SDR is designed for extreme adaptability and operational precision, making it ideal for high-demand operating contexts.

Advanced external interface: The OL-SDR's advanced external interface is designed to meet the most demanding needs of the most sophisticated operators.

Maximum customization and flexibility: The OL-SDR offers a level of customization and flexibility that is unmatched by any other SDR radio.

If you are looking for the most sophisticated, flexible, and powerful SDR radio on the market, the OL-SDR is the perfect choice for you.

<https://www.olliter.com/sdr-en.html>

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YAESU FTX 1 SERIES

FTX-1 Series – True All-Rounder

HF/50/144/430MHz All Mode Wide-Coverage SDR Transceiver for a 100W Base Station and 10W Field Operation

We are pleased to announce that we will launch the new HF/50/144/430MHz All Mode Wide-Coverage SDR Transceiver –FTX-1 series : “FTX-1 Field” and “FTX-1optima”

The FTX-1 provides continuous wide-range receiver coverage from 30kHz through 174MHz and from 400MHz through 470MHz including SWL, FM broadcast, and Air-band.

FTX-1 Field and FTX-1optima shares the “Field Head” - a field compact transceiver (W8.4” H3.5” D2.2”).

FTX-1 Field is supplied with a 6400mAh large capacity Li-ion Battery - SBR-52LI for field operation.

FTX-1optima is supplied with a detachable 100W RF power amplifier - SPA-1 for a Base Station in addition to the SBR-52LI Li-ion battery for field operation.

By attaching the SBR-52LI to the rear of the Field Head, the FTX-1 provides 6W (5W for QRP) stand-alone operation on HF through V/UHF bands in all modes – SSB, CW, AM, FM and C4FM digital. 9-hour stand-alone operating time with 6W on HF bands (SSB), and 8-hour operating time with 6W on V/UHF bands (FM) are available (6-6-48 duty cycle). The SBR-52LI is rechargeable separately with a third-party’s USB Type-C PD cable (45W or greater/ 15V 2A).

When using an external 13.8V DC power supply, up to 10W of power output is available, and the Field Head charges the SBR-52LI automatically.

By connecting the SPA-1 to the rear of the Field Head, the FTX-1 operates as a 100W Base Station. No tools are necessary for connection.

6W (5W for QRP) Field Operation with the supplied Li-ion Battery · 10W Field Operation with external DC power supply

Included items:

Field Head
SBR-52LI - 6400mAh Li-ion Battery
DC Power Cable with 2p-round plug for Field Head SSM-75E Hand Microphone

100W Base Station Operation with external DC power supply · 6W (5W for QRP) Field Operation with the supplied Li-ion Battery · 10W Field Operation with external DC power supply.

Included items:

Field Head
SPA-1 - 100W RF Power Amplifier
Heavy-Duty DC Power Cable for SPA-1 (25A) DC Power Cable with 2p-round plug for Field Head SBR-52LI - 6400mAh Li-ion Battery
SSM-75E Hand Microphone

The Yaesu FTX-1 series is backed by a industry leading 3 year warranty. Country of Origin: Japan

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Is FT8 Real Radio



FT8. But is it real radio?

Intro:

I have been using FT8 & FT4 digital modes since about 2018. I have currently worked well over 230 countries & have achieved six band DXCC along with five band WAS awards. In 2020 I was first in the world to achieve "The Washington Totem Award" on FT8. I also use FT8 (along with other modes) when out in the field doing POTA. FT8/4 may not be everyone's idea of ham radio, but love it or loathe it, it can provide contacts and that elusive new DXCC for operators with only modest setups and antennas. Below is my perspective on the use of this mode.

But isn't FT8 just one computer talking to another?

Now I'll be in the wrath of the ops who say that FT8/4 is just PC to PC – well believe me, this isn't the case and those that try to convince others that this is the case, have very obviously little understanding of the mode or how to operate it. There's a few tricks that FT8 operators need to know before they'll get endless (and effortless) QSO's in the log. It's not just a push button mode like some think it is – that's just rubbish. You'll see & hear various comments such as "You might as well just send an email", "Brain Dead" and the like. In essence, FT8 is another digital mode (not unlike PSK31).

Three times (and sometimes more) stations per minute can be worked using FT8 than CW/SSB!

Recently I listened to an operator on 15m SSB. The throughput and QSO per minute rate was slow – around 1-2 with general QSB. Signals were 5/5 – so reasonable (if not outstanding). The same qso rate on FT8 would have been 3 times that. It's a no-brainer really and why some can't see that just doesn't add up. This means rather than 2 stations working the 'DX' – you get 6 stations in the log.

Unlike CW and SSB – FT8 can be decoded up -26db below the noise floor:

Even with a modest setup, ops can successfully decode FT8 signals at well below 'S Zero'. It sounds all wrong, but that's the way the mode works. Just because 'you' can hear a signal – doesn't mean [digitally] that it's not present and it won't be decoded. This, in my honest opinion, gives those with even very modest antennas and low power from their rigs, an opportunity to get contacts without having to hammer out 1kw for that new one.

FT8 is exceptionally resilient to deliberate QRM:

On more than one occasion I have heard SSB operators trying quite unsuccessfully to work stations and a LID, with an IQ of Zero appeared on the frequency and created havoc. Whilst we'd all prefer to work the DX on SSB and have a quick 'Tnx for the QSO – 73' exchange, more often than not on today's crowded bands that's not always possible – especially when a really wanted' DXCC appears. On FT8, the QRM'er is a thing of the past. He can whistle, yell and do all he wants until the sun goes down. FT8 and the protocol won't even know he's there – even if he's +40db. What a great mode for getting rid of the band idiots once and for all!

Other great advantages for FT8 is the language barrier:

I have worked many countries around the world whose operators may likely had a very limited grasp on the English language, for example China, Japan & Indonesia. All my decodes are in English. Theirs may be in Chinese or Japanese or whatever but FT8 does the translation for us. Compare that to working SSB when a constant repeat of each other's call sign is necessary & the qso's flow through effortlessly. Also as FT8 is a 100% visual mode so the hard of hearing are not disadvantaged. In fact the volume on the rig can be turned down & the rest of the family can converse or watch TV in relative peace.

Contesting:

Over the last two or three years, many contests have added FT8/FT4 as acceptable contacts, and there are even FT8/FT4 specific contests like the World Wide Digi DX Contest & our own NZART Autumn & Winter sprints. Be aware that contests require you to use a "Special Operating Activity option" to modify the way FT8/4 works. Help for such is included on the appropriate award page. Also now would be the appropriate time to mention that there are many well known & indeed successful CW & SSB contesters that embrace the digital contest mode. I've also worked them on CW & SSB. On digi mode the computer automatically does your logging for you so therefore there are no "Busted Callsigns" which can make a big difference between your raw score & your final one..

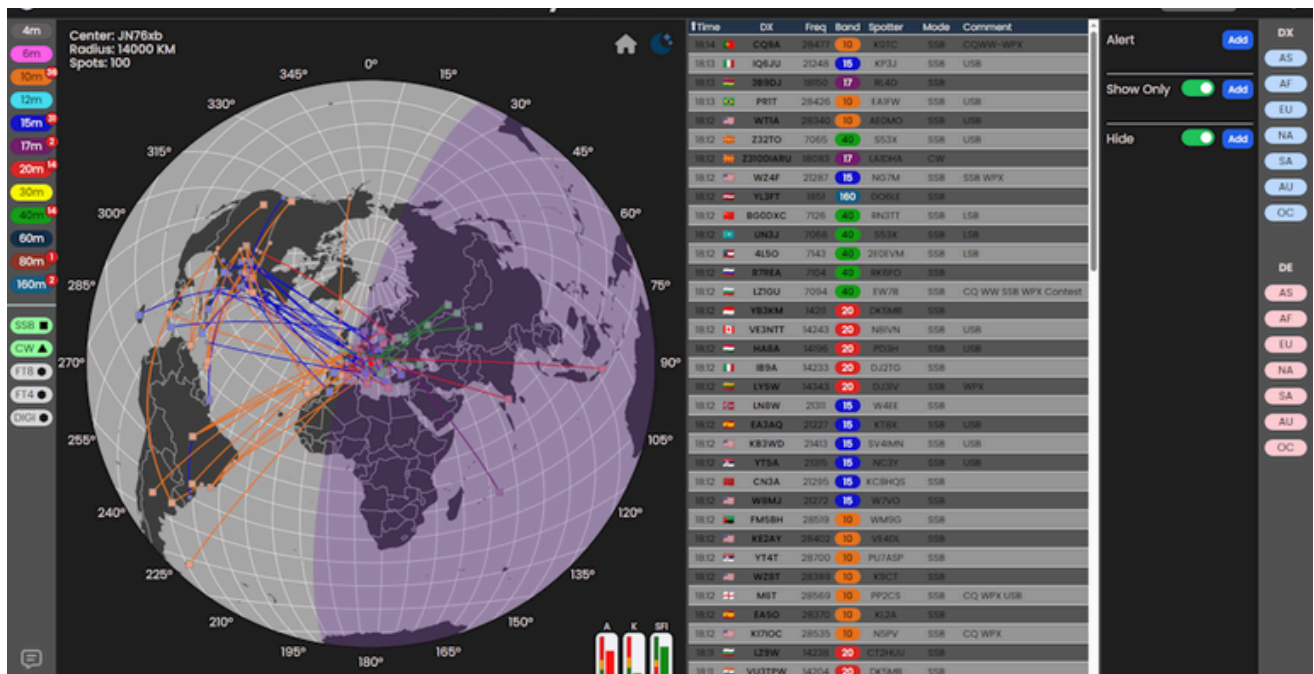
Disadvantages of FT8:

The only ones I can think of is that you can't ragchew on digi modes therefore if you enjoy the regular net scheds etc. FT8 is not a mode to use & yes, FT8/4 does need some tweaking with the menu on your rig & computer but I'm sure one of your club members may be able to help you.

I hope this has helped alleviate some of the mystery that accompanies this mode.

Rick de ZL3RIK

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HOLY CLUSTER

To the members of the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters [NZART],

We would love to see your radio club members use the "Holy Cluster".

<https://holycluster.iarc.org/>

It is an innovative cluster design that emphasizes visualization.

Side by side with the classic spots table, we have created a map that let the user feel the bands conditions in a glance.

🌐 It is very easy to locate DXpeditions

🌐 The bands are color coded so it is very clear which band is open and in which direction (Very useful during contests)

🌐 The filter is flexible and smart:

One can filter by mode, band, and continent. A more sophisticated filter allows you to filter by prefix, suffix, or country, and also by spotter or DX.

🌐 It lets you set 'Alerts' so you never miss a rare DXCC

It also includes:

🌑 Dark Mode: You can switch to dark mode in the settings menu for a more comfortable experience in low-light environments.

📄 Sortable Spots Table: You can sort the spots table simply by clicking any of the columns name for better organization.

📍 Submit a New Spot: We've added an option to submit new spots directly through the app.

📊 Propagation Data: You can view propagation data to better predict band conditions.

📍 Map Center Indicator: Shows a dot in the center of the map.

In the very near future we will add:

⚙️ CAT Control:

We are currently working on an advanced module that will enable radio control via CAT. This is a complex task, but we believe it will be well worth the wait!

This project is an open source. It is free and will always be free.

It is being developed by radio amateurs as a contribution to our community.

Please send this invitation to your club members, it will be our pleasure if they find it useful.

Submitted by Simon ZL3SI

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C4FM – ROOM 06233 HELLAS-TALK C4FM

Network for Greek Radio Amateurs and Preppers Worldwide.

A new era of high-quality digital communications.

We are pleased to announce the operation of the first three C4FM nodes in Greece, dedicated to radio amateurs and preppers. This is an independent and modern communication network created by people with vision, technical expertise, and love for the community. Initially, three nodes are already active, covering key regions of the country, with the potential to expand across Greece.

The people behind the effort.

This entire initiative wouldn't have been possible without Dimitris Antoniou, Technological Electronic Engineer (SV8RSX), consultant for the electronics shop www.hamradio.net.gr and the main visionary behind the idea. After many hours of work, a C4FM ROOM named Hellas-Talk was established specifically for radio amateur preppers. The first node, covering the region of Euboea and surrounding areas, is located in the same facility.

Other radio amateurs with a shared vision quickly embraced the project. Among them, Nikos Sopasoudakis, a tourism professional and driver (SY9EFH-SV9TNA), set up the second node in Crete without hesitation. Giorgos Giovanakis, IT Specialist and Computer Programmer (SV1TAO), handled the setup of the third and vital node in Piraeus, reinforcing coverage throughout the Attica basin. These three nodes are now available for every Greek radio amateur and prepper to use legally and securely—especially during times of crisis when reliable communication is critical.

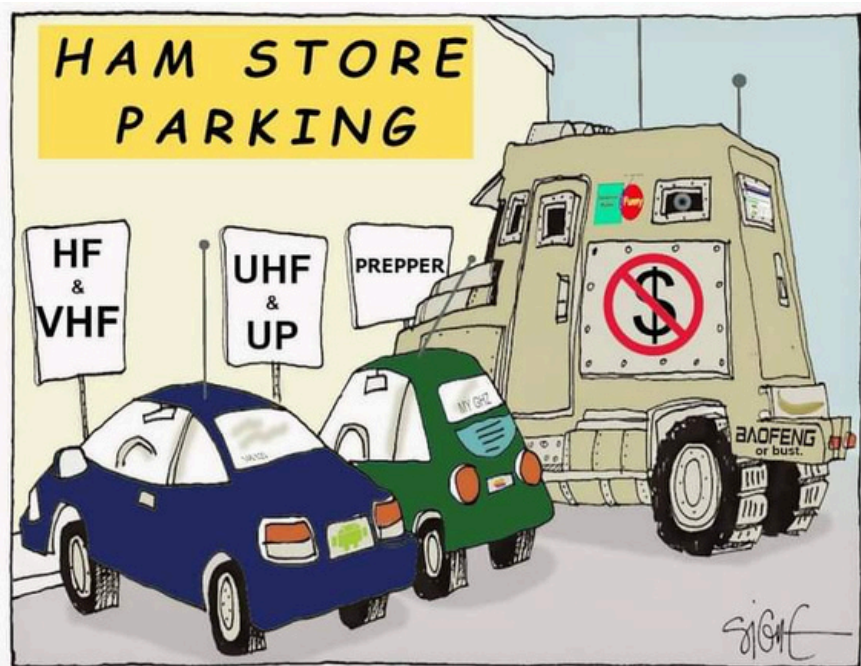
How to connect

To participate in the network, you need to have a valid amateur radio license and a transceiver compatible with C4FM System Fusion. Supported models include: FTM 100/200/300/400/500/510 FT-991A / FT-1 / FT-2D / FT-3D / FT-4D / FT-5D / FT-70D. Setup is simple: Tune your radio to your nearest node frequency and select DN mode. Frequencies are listed at www.prepper.gr.

A community-based independent amateur radio network for Preppers

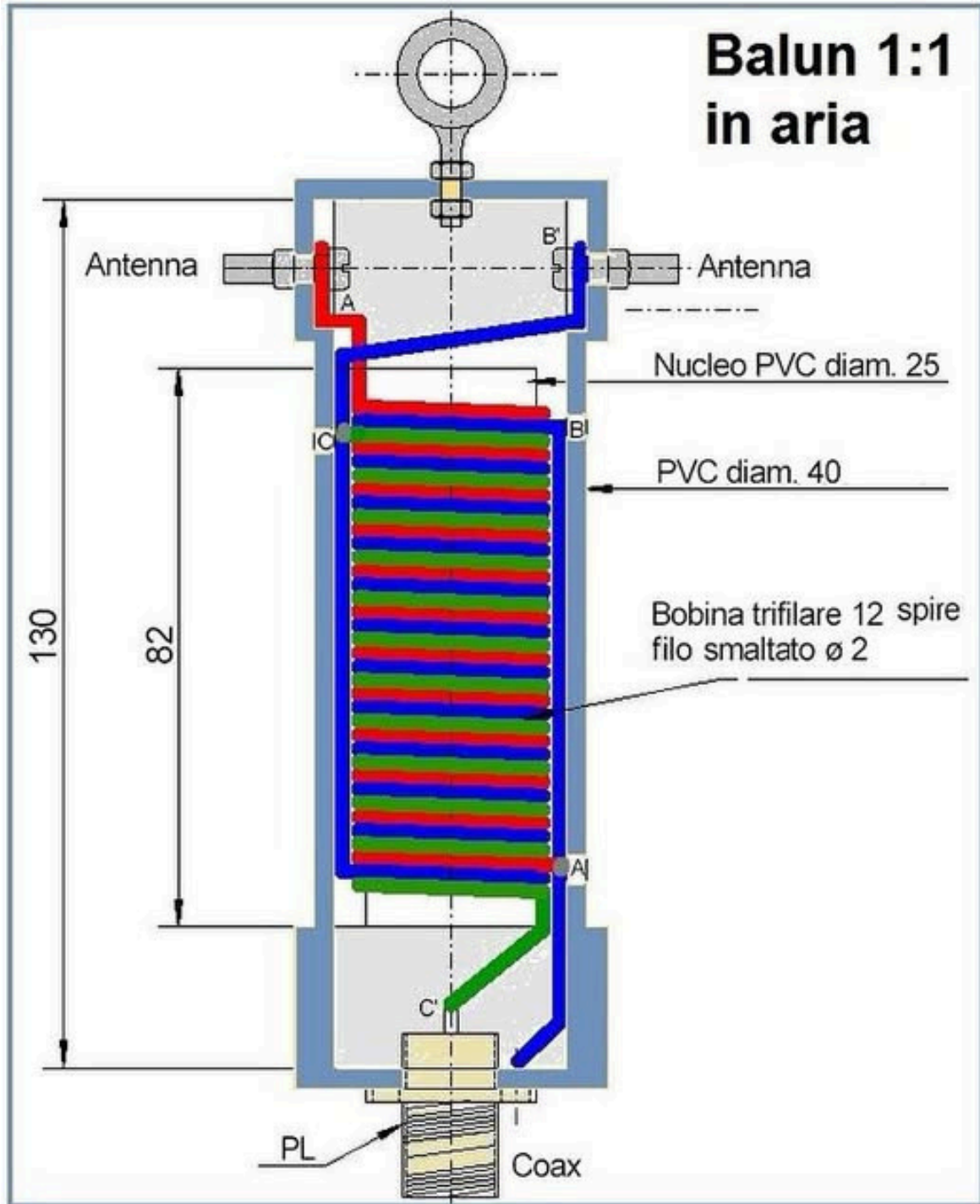
This initiative is not affiliated with any official organization or radio club. It's an open community driven by a shared philosophy—focused on spreading knowledge, collaboration, and practical readiness. The nodes are already operational and invite anyone interested in safe and legal radio communications to make use of them. For more information, technical support, or to get involved, feel free to reach out. We can guide you step-by-step to join the network.

With appreciation, The C4FM Node Team for Preppers
(73 de SV1TAO)



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EASY 1:1 BALUN



I know it is not all in English and still pretty easy to figure out.

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MODES

C4FM, FUSION, WIRES-X, YSF & BRIDGE

C4FM

C4FM stands for Continuous Four Level Frequency Modulation and is a FDMA (Frequency Division Multiple Access) modulation method.

C4FM is a digital modulation technology. What your radio uses over the air to talk digitally to other digital radios and repeaters.

Fusion

This is the name that Yaesu has given their implementation of C4FM. The full name is really System Fusion. It is not a new technology but a marketing term created by Yaesu for referring to their C4FM.

You can learn about System Fusion on the Yaesu website here: <http://systemfusion.yaesu.com/what-is-system-fusion/>

Wires-X

Wires-X is a technology that runs on top of System Fusion. It provides a network of repeaters. Wires-X has a concept called rooms where multiple repeaters and nodes can connect and talk to each other. A room is similar to a reflector in D-Star, a Talk Group in DMR and a conference in Echolink.

Wires-X provides a directory of connected rooms and manages the connections from Nodes/Repeaters to each room.

In addition, Wires-X provides a way from the radio to change to a different room, search rooms and more. Some radios have more features than others because of touch screens, etc.

There is also the ability to send messages and pictures, put them in a common message store on each node or room for others to read (think of news).

Without Wires-X, System Fusion is just a communication protocol.

YSF

YSF short for Yaesu System Fusion really is not a Yaesu technology when looking at the YSF servers. It is another method of creating a room where other System Fusion users can connect together.

Unlike Wires-X, there is no central management of the rooms that are up and available. There are directories of YSF servers (for example: <https://register.ysfreflector.de/> and many of the digital softwares you run on your computer also maintain lists for easy selection.

The important thing to note is that System Fusion repeaters cannot directly access these servers. To get from Wires-X on Yaesu System Fusion to a YSF server, you need a bridge (more on that in a bit).

You can find YSF rooms connected on some repeaters that are running the MMDVM software as their repeater controller. Some of you may also know it as Pi-Star which is a pretty interface over the MMDVM software.

Bridge

A bridge is a way of connecting 2 different protocols or technology together. It is similar in concept to a cross band repeater that for example takes in a signal on 2 Meters and transmits it back out on 70cm.

Since YSF cannot directly talk to Wires-X, there is a bridge that can talk to both YSF and Wires-X. When it hears something on Wires-X it sends it to YSF and the opposite happens when it hears something on YSF.

There are multiple ways you can bridge between the networks.

One method is simply setting up a Wires-X node with a radio and setting up a YSF/FCS node with a radio on the same frequency. Very similar to what cross band repeat does.

There are some that may be able to make the translation using software. For example, a our XLX reflector translates from Brandmeister DMR TG 20222 to XLX165 Module B all in software digitally. It never decodes the audio.

That is possible because both use the AMBE2 format. For example, if you wanted to take the same DMR and put it on D-Star you would need to drop it to audio first and back because D-Star uses the older AMBE protocol.

Since Fusion, YSF and FCS are all using AMBE2, it can be done easily in software.

It is possible that there is a bridge between Wires-X and YSF and then one between YSF and FCS with no bridge between FCS and Wires-X.

This would mean that when someone keys up on A Wires-X repeater, it would connect to YSF via a Bridge and then YSF would connect with FCS through a bridge.

It can get very complicated and it is important to remember that every bridge adds delay. Too much delay and people are talking over each other.

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WHAT IS DMR?

DMR offers several benefits to users.

Firstly, DMR is an 'open' standard and is not proprietary to a single manufacturer. Second is Digital Audio Quality.

A digital signal, however, will remain clear to the edge of coverage. DMR systems use a device called the AMBE+2™ vocoder to convert voice information into digital data. During the digitization process, the background audio noise like sirens, engines, wind etc. typically present in analog systems, is reduced.

"The nice thing about standards is there are so many to choose from." I love the ironic humor in this statement; a standard should result in everyone doing things the same way in order to be compatible, and prevent having to constantly re-invent the wheel. Yet, everyone has to have their own standard! Just take two-way radio digital voice systems for example: there's P25 phase 1 and phase 2, NDXN, DMR, TETRA, OpenSky, Provoice, and dPMR, along with a whole host of legacy digital voice modes as well. That doesn't even consider the ham radio contenders, such as DStar, Fusion, FreeDV, some old offerings from Alinco & AOR and so on. Absolutely none of them are compatible!

How Do I Get Started in DMR Ham Radio?

Before you get started with DMR you'll need to get a DMR ID and to do that you'll need to be a licensed amateur radio operator or licensed ham. You can listen in on certain DMR broadcasts online, but to access the DMR network you'll have to connect a DMR ID programmed radio.

What is a DMR network?

The main access point of a DMR ham radio is through the DMR network. Imagine a network of radios connected through the internet. Now imagine that your internet service provider has its own network, and you can still communicate with other ISPs, **but** you can also communicate solely within that network as well, almost like Xbox and Playstation standalone games and/or the inclusion of cross-platform games.

There are two ways to connect to a DMR Network:

- Repeater network/Multimedia Digital Voice Modem (MMDVM)
- Stand-alone repeater/Simplex (one to one correspondence)

Repeaters and Hotspots communicate through a digital networking interface called TCP/IP, commonly associated with the internet. This interface transfers encoded information between two points, either privately or publicly. This includes the transmission of text, email, and GPS functionality. Your radio must have an AMBE +2 Vocoder to transmit the encoded signal.

What is an AMBE +2 Vocoder and How Does it Work?

The AMBE +2 Vocoder is a DMR standard. With the vocoder, your analog voice is encoded into a digital signal, where a radio with a matching digital signal can decode it back into analog sound. This step ensures a higher audio quality than a plain old voice transmission through FM.

What is a Hotspot?

Hotspots in DMR are similar to the cellular hotspots that most of us are already familiar with. You would use it in a pinch or for lack of service. Radio hotspots work the same way, if you lack repeater access, you can use a hotspot to access a specific DMR network.

List of Hotspots

- Zum Spot
- Jumbo Spot
- SharkRF Open Spot
- MMDVM Hotspots
-

Which DMR Network Should I Use?

There are many DMR Networks to choose from, the three most common being DMR-Marc, DMR+, and Brandmeister. These networks have worldwide availability. However, you may only have limited access to international networks depending on your license.

What is a Codeplug?

Codeplugs contains the information used to program your radio on the DMR network. This information will vary from radio to radio and specifies information like frequency and accessible Talkgroups. A Codeplug is essentially access software that you "plug" in manually.

What is a Talkgroup?

Talkgroups are chat rooms where you can send out a signal via a DMR Network and other users linked to that Talkgroup can reply to your message from that same channel. You can select from the over 1500 Talkgroups manually from all over the world. Some of these Talkgroups include:

- Local Repeater Talkgroups
- Statewide
- Regional
- Country Specific
- Special Interests Groups ie, Public Safety.
- General Amateur Radio Groups

FAQ

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The Fairy Tale of 22 YL and their friends



Once upon a time, in the heart of Europe, nestled amidst the picturesque landscapes of the Czech Republic, a magical gathering took place. This gathering brought together 22 young ladies from 11 different countries: Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Japan, the USA, Germany, Luxembourg, Slovakia, England, Poland, Russia, and Turkey. These young women shared a unique passion for amateur radio, a hobby that allowed them to connect with people from all over the world.

They met at a charming location known as OK5Z, a place where the air buzzed with excitement and the possibilities of new friendships. Each young lady was filled with enthusiasm and determination, eager to make the most of their time together. With their transceivers and antennas at the ready, they logged an impressive 17,882 QSOs from 149 different countries, showcasing their dedication and skill.

Despite the demanding work, the young ladies found time to enjoy each other's company. They shared laughter, warmth, and support, creating bonds that would last a lifetime. They captured these precious moments through photographs and videos, preserving the memories of their unique adventure.

In the evenings, they were joined by a group of brave and kind-hearted Old Men or "OM" for short. These wise mentors were always ready to lend a hand, offering technical assistance and sharing their vast knowledge. One special night, the Old Men decided to surprise the young ladies. They prepared a delicious dinner and played lively music, filling the air with joy and celebration.

The gathering was made possible by the generous support of several organizations: IARU R1, USKA, Yasme Foundation, RL Radio amateurs du Luxembourg, OK5Z, OK2ZA, OK2ZI, and the Thiemann family. Their help and kindness turned this magical event into a reality .

As the days passed, the young ladies cherished every moment, grateful for the opportunity to learn, connect, and grow. Their hearts were filled with gratitude towards those who made this experience possible, and they knew they would carry the spirit of this gathering with them wherever they went.

And so, the story of these 22 young ladies and their unforgettable adventure in the Czech Republic became a cherished tale, a reminder of the power of HAM Radio friendship and the joy of sharing one's passion with the world.

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POTA NEWS AND ACTIVATIONS



Update on the issue of China in POTA

After quite a few conversations, we are VERY HAPPY to announce that we have been able to re-enable China in the system.

We don't want to go into too much detail on the process, but the important details came down to simple language barriers. Chinese is one of the more complex (common) languages, and neither party is a native speaker of the other party's language. Using computer based translation isn't always the most accurate, so there was some misunderstanding of the re-org concept plan and implementation.

We thank our volunteers for the many hours spent in Google Translate and Discord, working out the misunderstanding, and we are happy to be able to reactivate China so quickly!

Comment on if a POTA station should QSY

Why does a pharmaceutical discussion have priority over a POTA activation if the POTA op was on frequency first? It's ludicrous to expect someone to check every list of nets for one starting in 10 minutes on the now-empty frequency they have chosen to call CQ on? Most of the nets that go on are nothing more than a legacy holdover that no one wants to admit as outlived it's usefulness and needs to be given a gracious burial. Does anyone really utilize the *CARS nets for their original purpose? I can get traffic, weather, direction, travel info, restaurant suggestions, etc from this little device that fits in my hand.

A courteous op will normally move if there is a friendly request to QSY. However, I've heard RUDE NCS demand that the POTA Op move. You get more flies with honey. Even if the POTA op doesn't move, is it really a big deal to move the gout and bunion discussion up/down a few k? People will find the net.

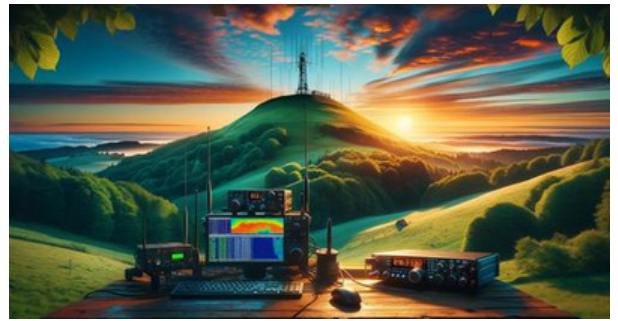
Now in a case where the net IS ALREADY IN PROGRESS, yes I agree with the photo.

N1RBD

Everything you need to know about POTA, Starting Guide



www.thehamshack.co.nz



The POTA movement began in the United States. It built on the surge of interest in portable radio operation caused by the ARRL hosting a one-year program called NPOTA in 2016 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park System. A nonprofit organization was founded in 2018 to continue POTA on a permanent basis, since when it has been a popular method of community and student outreach, with events taking place both in parks and sometimes at other public events. The organization worked to expand worldwide and participation now occurs around the clock and around the world, in locations as diverse as the Caribbean, India, China and Europe. Park locations range from large national parks covering many square miles to small urban locations and islands.

In early 2024, POTA updated its reference codes and other data systems to match the ISO standard. For example, park K-0001 would become US-0001. I-0001 would become IT-0001. Also, territories of countries would get their own designation to match their DXCC island entities, for example, park K-0110 in Guam would become GU-0001.

Amateur radio operators who set up a temporary station at a park are known as activators, while others who 'spot' and complete contacts with them are called hunters. Activations can take place on the initiative of an individual operator, or as part of organized group events such as Field Days. Equipment used is typically small, battery operated, and may have been constructed by the operator themselves. The radio may be hand-held, carried in a backpack or a 'go box', or it could be mounted in a vehicle, as permitted by the park operator. Antennas may be small enough to form part of a hand-held unit for VHF and UHF operations, or be ground-spike or tripod-mounted temporary whips or loops for longer radio wavelengths. Where permitted by local regulations, kites, trees or lightweight masts and fishing poles are sometimes used to suspend wire antennas as high as possible to optimise performance. In this way, with patience, skill, and good luck with propagation conditions, contacts can sometimes be made worldwide using radios little larger than a pack of playing cards, although some activators prefer to use higher power, more sophisticated and larger equipment.

Activators can signal their intent to be on the air in advance using the POTA website, so that hunters are ready for them.

Activators log all the contacts they make and upload them to the POTA website, which then allocates the rewards and shows league tables for everyone involved. A successful activation requires a minimum of 10 contacts (QSOs) from a park in the designated list within a single UTC day (Zulu day).

Also active are:
Summits on the Air
Beaches on the Air
Lighthouses on the Air



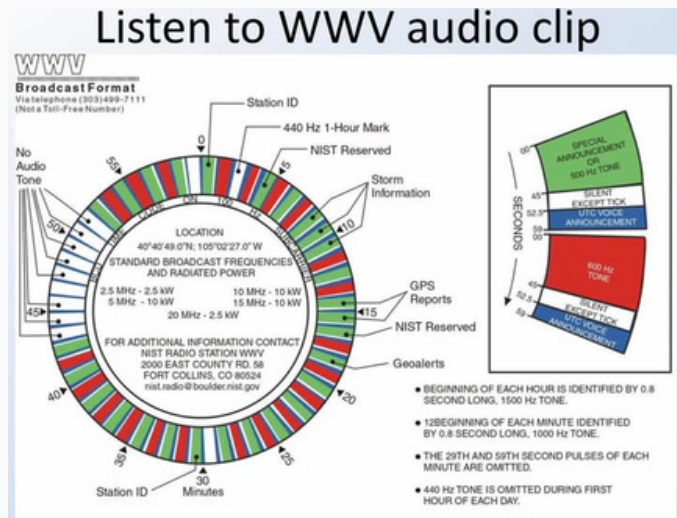
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Radio Station WWV

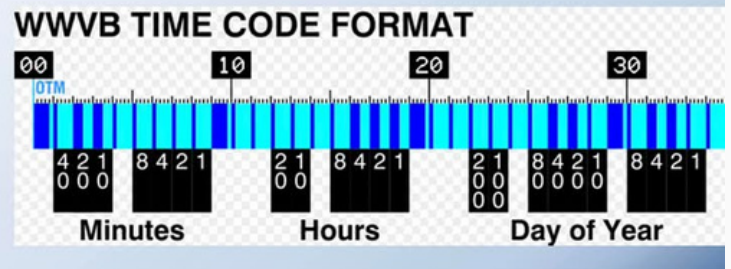
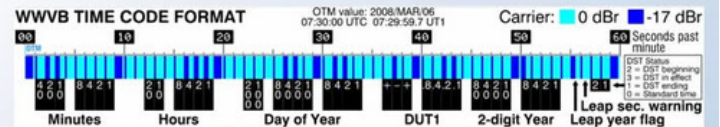
NIST radio station WWV broadcasts time and frequency information 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to millions of listeners worldwide. WWV is located near Fort Collins, Colorado, about 100 kilometers north of Denver. The broadcast information includes time announcements, standard time intervals, standard frequencies, UT1 time corrections, a BCD time code, and geophysical alerts.

What is WWV?

- Time and Frequency broadcast station
- NIST (US Dept. of Commerce)
- WWV – 2.5, 5, 10, 15, 20, (25) MHz
 - AM – DSB w/carrier
 - Fort Collins, CO
 - Male Voice
- WWVH – 2.5, 5, 10, 15 MHz
 - Kekaha, HI (on the island of Kauai)
 - Female Voice
- WWVB – 60 kHz
 - amplitude modulated, also phase modulated



WWVB Data Format



The WWV antennas are half-wave vertical antennas that radiate omnidirectional patterns. There are antennas at the station site for each frequency. Each antenna is connected to a single transmitter using a rigid coaxial line, and the site is designed so that no two coaxial lines cross. Each antenna is mounted on a tower that is approximately one half-wavelength tall. The tallest tower, for 2.5 MHz, is about 60 m tall. The shortest tower, for 20 MHz, is about 7.5 m tall. The top half of each antenna is a quarter-wavelength radiating element. The bottom half of each antenna consists of nine quarter-wavelength wires that connect to the center of the tower and slope downwards to the ground at a 45 degree angle. This sloping skirt functions as the lower half of the radiating system and also guys the antenna.

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Playing radio at work

Khalid Al Riyami, A41CK from Oman is a cool dude. A captain of a Boeing 787 Dreamliner and an active amateur radio operator.



Click on either photo to watch video of QSO

A41CK / A42K Oman

16th July 2024 Charles M00XO Blog



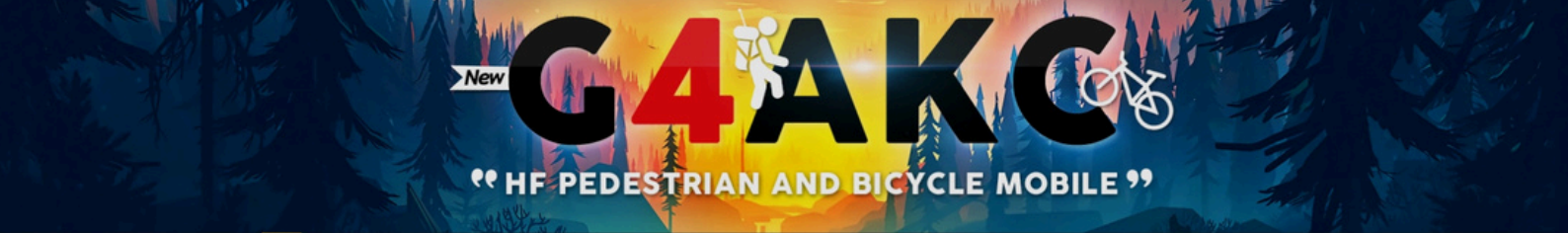
Op. Khalid Al Riyami
Muscat
Oman

A41CK
A41CK/AM
A42K
Contest
Call

Khalid is very active on the HF Bands when time from his occupation (Airline Pilot) allow. He is also frequently active from the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society (A47RS), also in Muscat, the Capital City of Oman.
CQ - 21
ITU - 39
Loc - LL93en

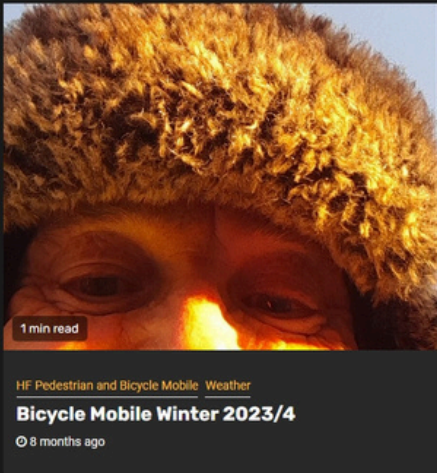
QSL & Logsearch by M00XO OQRS

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- 2
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Bicycle Mobile Winter 2023/4
- 3
[HF Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobile](#)
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- 4
[HF Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobile](#)
Portable operations from Madeira Island 3rd/5th Oct 2022
- 5
[HF Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobile](#)
Bicycle Mobile low power tests 22nd March 2022.
- 1
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- [HF Pedestrian and Bicycle Mobile](#)
Bicycle Mobile low power tests 22nd March 2022.

Bicycle and Pedestrian mobile on HF

Dave is a busy operator on HF

Happily married for 38 years to my wife "Tracy", although she is not involved in amateur radio she does support me in the hobby.

I have now retired after working at BAE Systems for 36 Years (formerly British Aerospace) as an Air traffic control, Radio, Radar and Navigation Aids Engineer, working as a professional radio and communications engineer.

In my spare time, I enjoy designing and constructing HF mobile and portable type antennas. My main passion is using my "HF Bicycle" and "HF Pedestrian Mobile" near to the sea shore in Blackpool on the North-West coast of England.

My other interests include caravanning and photography

<https://www.qrz.com/db/g4akc>

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Reason for selling I have found a 24m lattice tower that I am going to install.

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Greg ZL1GUD@proton.me
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WANTED nothing this month

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