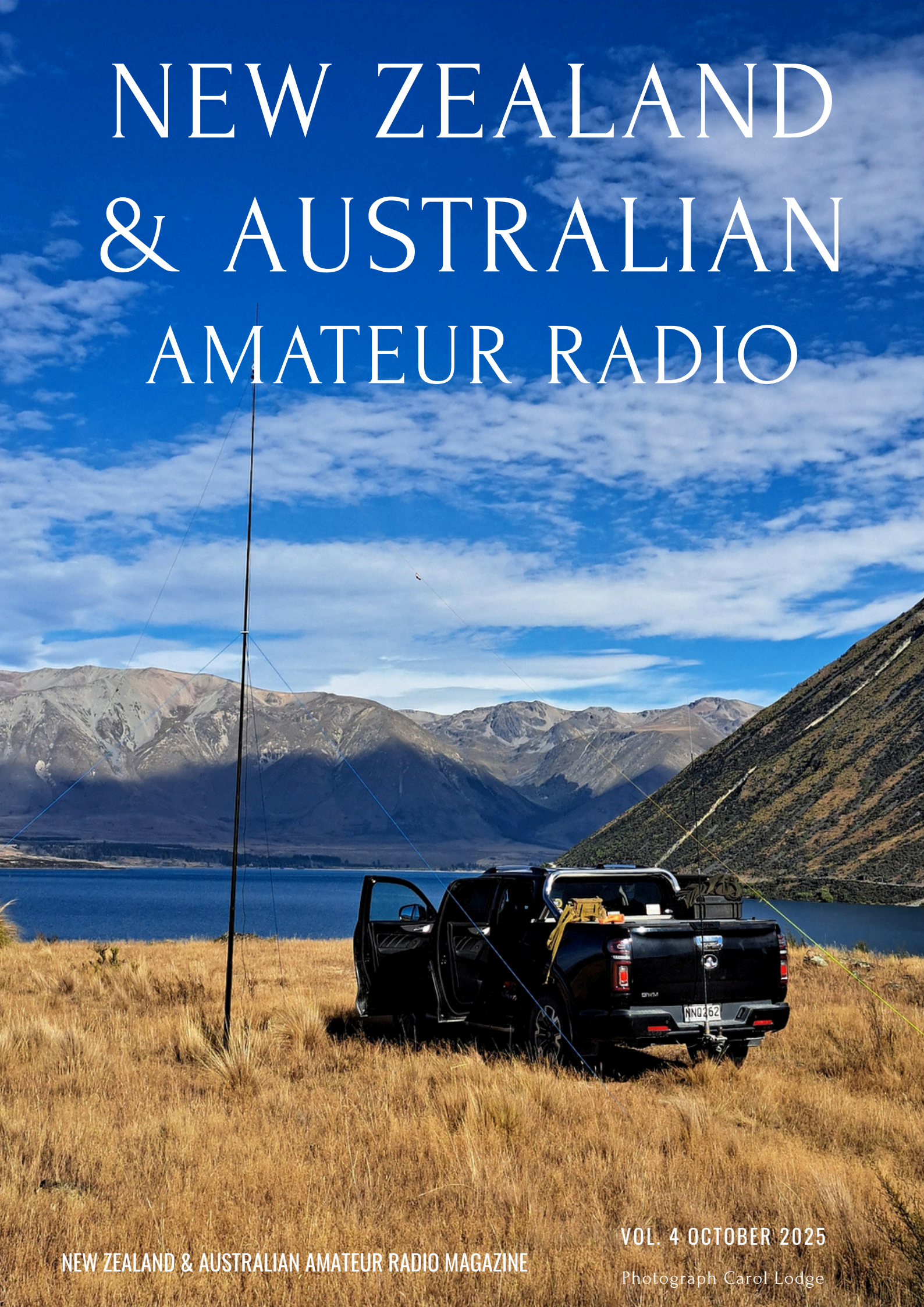
NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO



NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE

VOL. 4 OCTOBER 2025

Photograph Carol Lodge

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A Free Magazine with Product News, DIY and Interviews

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.

I 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

Note: Right click on text for link to website.

www.thehamshack.co.nz

This issue:

STOCK HAS ARRIVED

spiderbeam

high performance lightweight antennas

Half a ton of stock has arrived

www.thehamshack.co.nz NZ Distributor

LOTS OF STOCK

50% of the antennas have been pre-sold!

Pre-Assembled or kit options

www.thehamshack.co.nz

From the Editor

The year is literally flying by and I can't believe that it is October already.

Last month I took the liberty of sending the magazine to every amateur radio club in New Zealand and Australia and I must say the emails that I got back were enthusiastic and supportive.

The magazine is *by the people for the people* and it is open to anyone who has a radio story (with photos).

This month I have managed to do two activations instead of at least one a week but I am getting ready to install my Spiderbeam yagi (it should be here this week) and my Hygain TH3 is for sale (I am keeping the rotator).

A few months ago ZL3PAE called me about a lattice tower that was available. I had a quick look and arranged with a crane company to collect it. The tower is actually the jib of a small crane so needs a bit of welding to accomodate the rotator and base plate, this tower is heavy and even the short sections cannot be lifted by hand. The tower will eventually be around 16m high.

Wifey asked if the tower would be replacing the other four poles in the garden, probably not.

73's

Greg

Rakaia River activation with ZL2NEB

CQ WW Contest Dates

SSB: October 25 - 26, 2025

CW: November 29 - 30, 2025

Starts: 0000 UTC Saturday
Ends: 2359 UTC Sunday

www.thehamshack.co.nz

EAST FEST

EAST FEST

BE THERE

18TH & 19TH OCTOBER

East Fest Programme

Weekend Pass General Admission $20
Weekend Pass Non Commercial Stall Holder $30

Saturday 18th October Sinclair Centre, Park Street, Ashburton

0800 - 0900	Stall Holders Setup
0900 - 1200	Doors open to public for Radio & Electronics Market
1200 - 1300	Lunch Break (AARC setup for presentations)
1300 - 1330	Welcome & Allstar Presentation
1330 - 1400	Antenna project for gardens with limited space
1400 - 1430	All things VHF and Microwave
1430 - 1500	Getting started in POTA/SOTA
1500 - 1530	Planning a POTA activation
1530 - 1600	Antenna Testing

Sunday 19th October Club Rooms (Ashburton Aviation Museum Portacom, I

0900 - 1000	Newcomers intro to Ontheair.nz
1000 - 1030	Power QRP/QRO and power sources
1030 - 1100	Coax and connectors
1100 - 1130	Logging paper vs electronic
1130 - 1230	Competition/Fox Hunting
1230 - 1330	BBQ Lunch/Social

AMATEUR RADIO

Get licensed & legal in two days!

The Radio Electronics Group (Inc.) Hamilton

A Branch "HAM CRAM" will be on held on the weekend of:

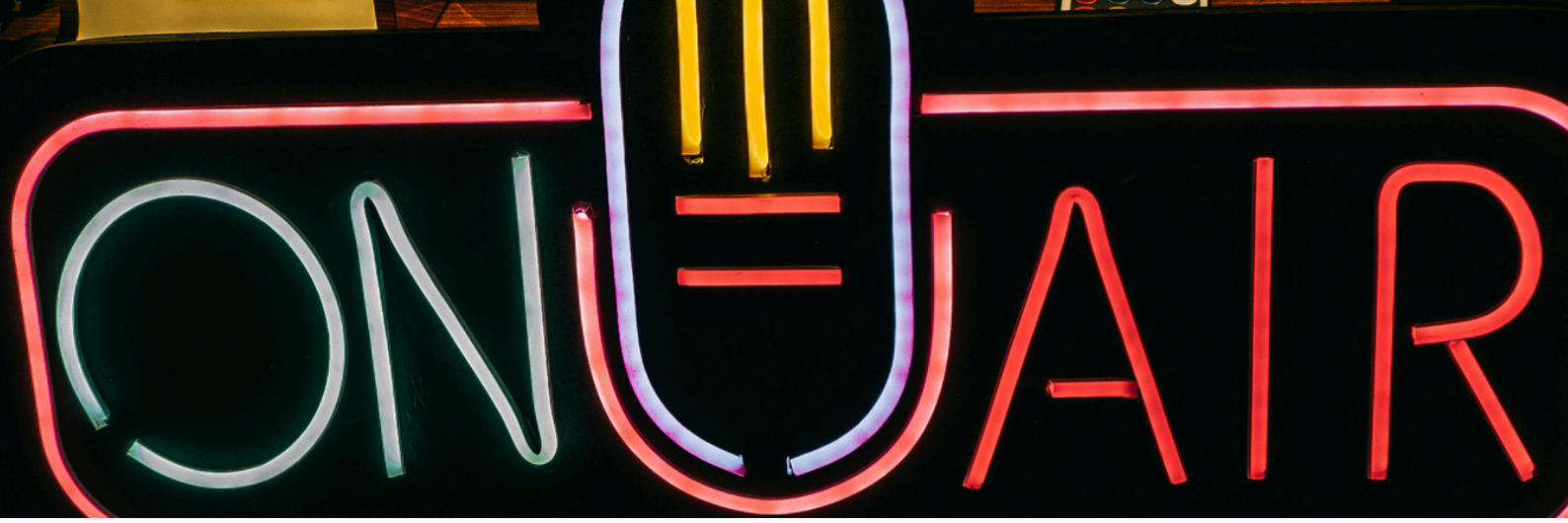
11th - 12th October 2025

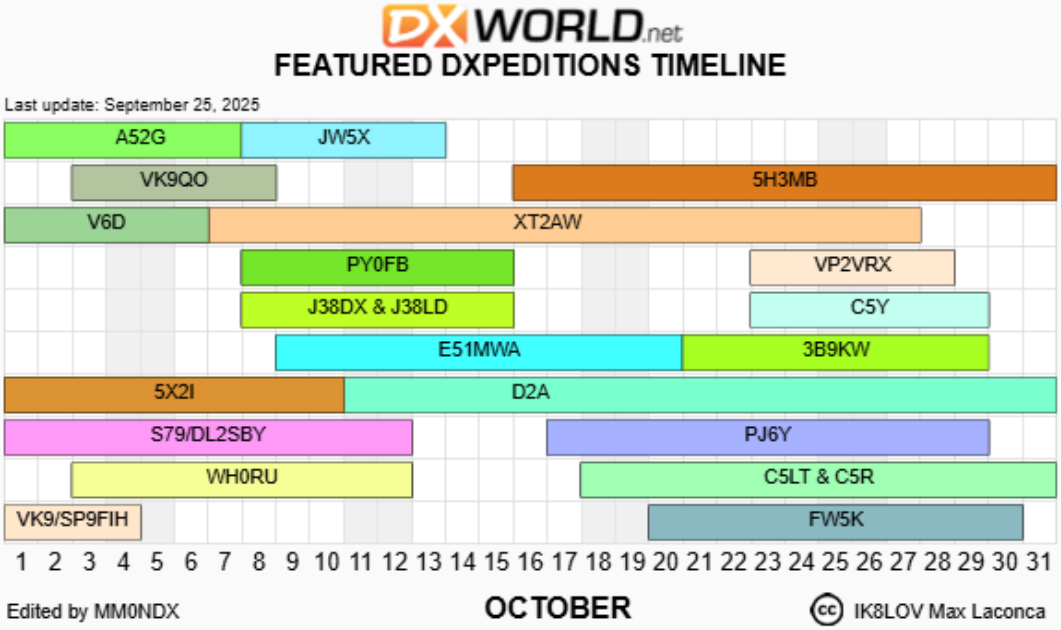
- All age groups
- All walks of life

Bookings essential

Contact: ZL1CJH - Chris Hattan

Email	Phone
myzl1cjh@gmail.com	0278499206





All Amateur Radio Operations suspended in Equitorial Guinea

We sadly announce to Amateur Radio community that 3C2MD, our long awaited expedition to Equatorial Guinea, will be postponed to unknown future date because a sudden stop to all the Amateur Radio licenses declared by the local Government.

The reason of that decision has been due to “problems with license granted to two foreigner citizens” that, according to the local news, tried to operate from “sensitive part of the country” without all the necessary permissions in the early part of September. You may already have seen the online press articles about this fact. Because of their behaviour, the two foreigners had been obliged to stop their radio operations, so they decided to go back home before they had planned to.

Understandably, the local Government suspended all the licenses with the aim to revise the procedures of requesting the permission of operating from the country, so, few days ago, we received from ORTEL (the local agengy of Telecom) the official communication that the license to our expedition, even if we fulfilled all the administrative requests, was suspended till new Government’s decision (anyway our license will expire in the end of next month of November).

We regret for the situation but we are sure that all the people who was waiting for us on air will understand that there is not any responsability on our side of this unespected outcome. We are contacting all our supporters (Corporate, Associations and Individuals) to refund them.
We will back very soon with more details.

Thank you.
Ant, I8KHC
3C2MD Team leader.

Courtesy of DXworld.net

UGANDA DXPedition 29th Sept to 10th Oct 2025

Previously active from Uganda in May 2023, Pista HA5AO will be returning there later this year, specifically between September 29 to October 10. He will QRV as 5X2I on 80-6m; CW, SSB & FT8 using a FT-710 + KPA-500 amplifier and a Hustler 6BTV vertical with add-on kit for 12 & 17m. Info below from last trip including soundbite recordings.

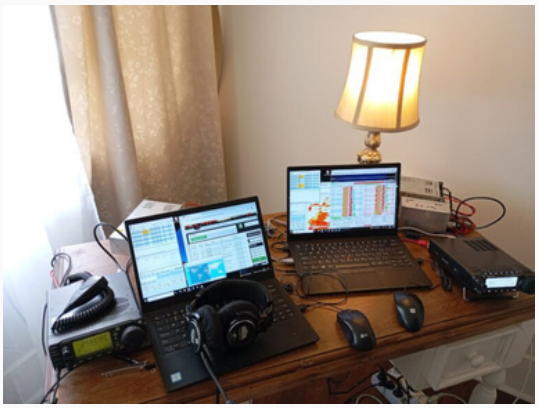
Note the date: CQ Worldwide DX Contest October 24 - 26th 2025

Celebrating 50 years in amateur radio this year, Kasimir DL2SBY informs DX-World that he will again be active from the Seychelles as S79/DL2SBY during **September 28 to October 12, 2025. QRV on HF bands with a focus on 6m (using a 5el yagi). QSL via LoTW / or homecall (direct).

CHRISTMAS ISLAND DXPedition

Similar to Lord Howe, tommorrow (25th September) I will change 15m antenna to 10m. This afternoon (morning in Europe) is the last chance for SSB QSO on 15m band. Pictures below of VK9/SP9FIH set-up.

Janusz SP9FIH plans to visit Christmas Island from 19th September till 3rd October, and will be active as **VK9/SP9FIH**.

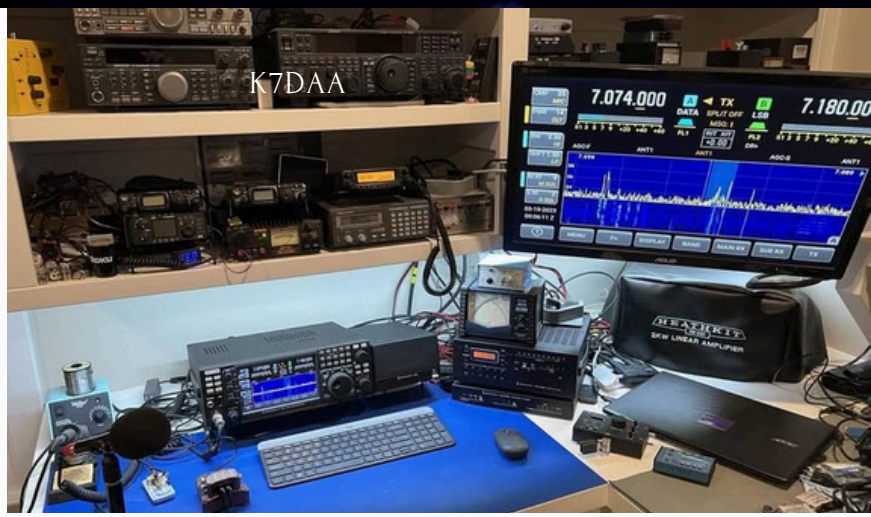


Check SP9FIH QRZ Page
It's very impressive

Shacks and Antennas

If you want your shack featured send a pic to ZL1GUD@proton.me

Antenna of SV9MBH

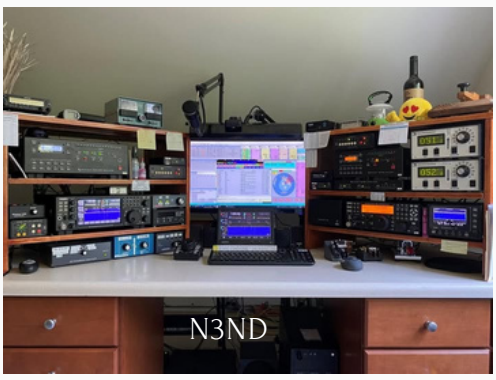


K7DAA

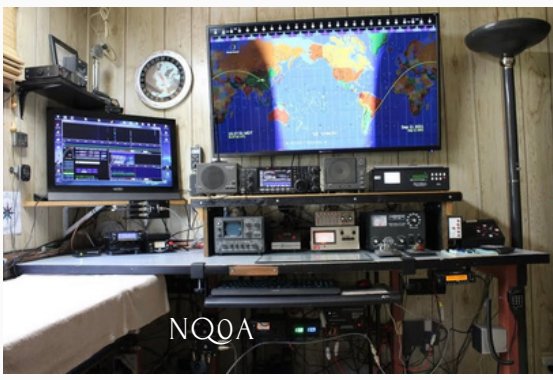
AD5GG

N8DNX

N6TWW



N3ND



NQ0A

Mad Dog Coils
High-quality HF antenna loading coils & EFHW antennas

The Mad Dog Coils story:

For me amateur radio came quite early in my life as I was only 22 years old when I got my amateur radio license. I had recently finished a diploma in electronic engineering and my favourite subject in that course was on radio communication design and theory. In my 20s it was VHF and UHF that took my interest and I really didn't dabble in HF at all. HF sets were quite expensive and I didn't have much money to spend on hobbies back then.

It wasn't long before amateur radio took a back seat as I got married and had four children. I also had a very demanding career firstly in electronics then logistics and then finally in facility management.

It was in 2020 when COVID was in full effect that a ham friend of mine in the U. S. mentioned to me that he was doing a lot of Park activations and that he was loving this aspect of amateur radio. So I looked into it and decided to buy a cheap HF radio and got a xiegu G90.

I made myself a wire dipole antenna cut for 20 metres and also I went and started activating parks. I soon wanted to get on other bands especially 40 meters and I wanted to be able to activate from my vehicle and that's when I started looking at verticals with loading coils. All throughout 2021 I tinkered with different coil designs and different materials. By 2022 I was happy with the design and final product which ended up being a 300 mm long 40mm diameter all threaded PVC pipe wrapped with stainless steel wire. It had a magnet base below it and a 2.7 metre stainless steel tank whip above it. This provided rapid deployment and I could be ready to activate from my car within five minutes.

Other amateur radio activators asked me to share with them the construction method of the coil so in April 2022 I produced a DIY YouTube video of how to make your own coil. That video has almost had 100,000 views and It is titled "The Mad Dog Coil DIY Wolf River coil alternative". That is available on the Maddog's Ham Radio YouTube channel. The Mad Dog name came about because that has been my nickname ever since I was a scout leader back in the 1990s.

Through 1992 and 1993 many hams emailed me asking if I would be prepared to make a coil for them which they would be happy to pay for but due to work pressures I didn't have the time to be able to do this. At the end of 2023 I decided to semi-retire and that's when I started up the commercial manufacturing and sales of my coils, which the business is named Mad Dog Coils.

My first commercial lineup of products was built on a 25 mm all threaded PVC pipe and that lasted for a bit over a year until unfortunately the company that was producing these threaded rises dropped their quality level and the strength and rigidity was no longer available so I moved to a 50 mm diameter all threaded pipe which is where I have stayed for my current lineup of products. So this month I celebrate two years of Mad Dog Coils, the business, with over 1000 coils shipped globally.

Along with coils, I also have End Fed Half Wave wire antennas for portable operation and a couple of antenna switching units.

Mad Dog Coils - continued

Coil Range:
The Little Dog is an antenna loading coil for HF designed and built to be paired with the Chameleon SS25 which is a 25 ft telescopic whip and also SS17 which is the 17 ft version. It has greater wall thickness of the threaded riser and end caps to be able to handle the weight and wind loading of the SS25 whip. The former that the stainless steel wire is wound on is 2 inches in diameter. It has a BNC socket feed point and adjustable collar that slides up and down the stainless steel wire wrapped former to change the coil impedance. To get a very good SWR match for the 80 meter band it is recommended to use 5 or 6 ground radial wires of around 4.5 metres in length which connect to the ground socket. The Little Dog is available with either 3/8-24 imperial or 10mm metric hardware.

The Big Dog HF coil is designed and built to be paired with the Chameleon SS25 which is a 25 ft telescopic whip. It has greater wall thickness of the threaded riser and end caps to be able to handle the weight and wind loading of the SS25 whip. The former that the stainless steel wire is wound on is 2 inches. It has a BNC socket feed point and adjustable collar that slides up and down the stainless steel wire wrapped former to change the coil impedance. To get a very good SWR match for the 160 meter band it is recommended to use 10 ground radial wires of around 4.5 metres in length which connect to the ground socket. The Big Dog 25 is only available with 3/8-24 imperial hardware.
Additional collars can be added to either the Little or Big Dog Coils to enable quick band selection.

Mutt End Fed Half Wave antenna range:
The Mad dog coil MDC Mutt is a 56:1 transformer designed to be used as a key component of a portable end fed half wave (EFHW) antenna. The ferrite core has high efficiency compared to many other types and the 1.25 mm diameter enamel copper winding can handle 100 watts digital modes. The auto-transformer is snugly mounted on the 3d printed winding plate. The feed point is via a BNC socket and has stainless steel connection points for the antenna wire and optional counterpoise wire.

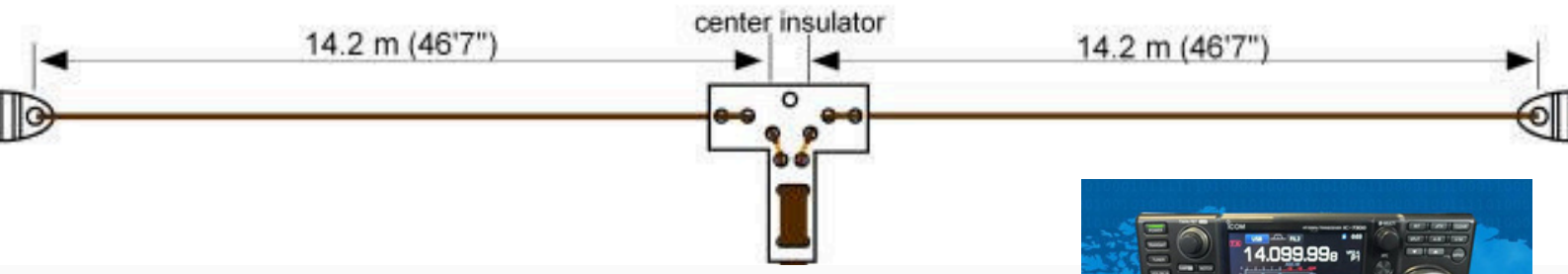
Mutt Classic: Antenna wire is 20 metres of BNTechGo 20 gauge silicon wire in black with 6 turns at the 2 meter point. Tunes on the 40, 20, 15 & 10 meter bands.
Mutt WARC: Antenna Wire is 13 metres of BNTechGo 20 gauge silicon wire in black with 26 turn inductor (10.5uH) at the 12 meter point. Tune the 30, 17 & 12 meters bands.
Mutt Classic plus 80: Antenna wire total length is 22 metres using BNTechGo 20 gauge silicone wire in back with a 108 uH inductor at the 20 meter point. Tunes on the 40, 20, 15 & 10 meter bands. Tunes a portion of the 80 meter band around 3.6 MHz. To get the full range of the 80 meter band the antenna will need to be used with an antenna tuner/matching unit.

Antenna Switching:
The Robo Dog is a remote-controlled antenna switching device designed to be used with a remote controlled transceiver service such as “Remote TX”. The relay board has three relays that are used to switch in and out up to three antennas. These relays are controlled from a Raspberry Pi (user supplied) via GPIO output.

The Lazy Dog is a remote-controlled switching device for switching frequency bands when paired with the Mad Dog Coils range of antenna inductor coils. The relay board has five relays used to switch in and out up to five tuning collars. The controller board has a six-position rotary switch which control's the relay unit (positions: Off, 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5). The controller unit is powered by 12 volts DC and the controller board is connected to the relay board by a cat 5e or cat 6 networking cable which carries the control voltage from the remote to the relay unit.

I take a lot of pride in my products as I make them for my own needs first and they are well proven with over 600 POTA activations under my belt.
I am very grateful to the many customers who have purchased my products. Please visit anddogcoils.com.au for more information about all of the Mad Dog Coils product range.

Left click for website link



COMPETITION CALENDAR

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

WA7BNM Contest Calendar Powered by ICOM

Home | 8-Day | 5-Week | 12-Month | Perpetual | State QSO Parties | Log Due Dates | Historical | Alphabetical | Customize | Cabrillo Names

Follow @wa7bnmcalendar | September 16 - 23, 2025 | September 24 - October 1, 2025 | October 2 - 9, 2025

	Oct 2 Thursday	Oct 3 Friday	Oct 4 Saturday	Oct 5 Sunday	Oct 6 Monday	Oct 7 Tuesday	Oct 8 Wednesday	Oct 9 Thursday
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest								
CWops Test (CWT)								
CWops Test (CWT)								
SARL 80m QSO Party								
NRAU 10m Activity Contest								
SKCC Sprint Europe								
URC DX RTTY Contest								
NCCC FT4 Sprint								
Weekly RTTY Test								
NCCC Sprint								
German Telegraphy Contest								
K1USN Slow Speed Test								
Collegiate QSO Party								
TRC DX Contest								
Oceania DX Contest, Phone								
Worked All Provinces of China DX Contest								
Russian WW Digital Contest								
IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves Contest								
California QSO Party								
International HELL-Contest								
IARU Region 2 Area G HF SSB Contest								
UBA ON Contest, SSB								
Peanut Power QRP Sprint								
K1USN Slow Speed Test								
ICWC Medium Speed Test								
OK1WC Memorial (MWC)								
RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW								
ICWC Medium Speed Test								
ARS Spartan Sprint								
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest								
ICWC Medium Speed Test								
Phone Weekly Test								
A1Club AWT								
CWops Test (CWT)								
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest								
Mini-Test 40								
Mini-Test 80								
CWops Test (CWT)								
432 MHz Fall Sprint								
CWops Test (CWT)								
CWops Test (CWT)								

THE PEEL AMATEUR RADIO GROUP INC (PARG)

The Peel Amateur Radio Group Inc (PARG) was established in 1982 by a group of licensed amateur radio operators.

As the name suggests, the Peel Region encompses the municipalities of the Peel Region of Western Australia, (City of Mandurah, Shire of Murray, Shire of Waroona, Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale), plus the City of Rockingham and Town of Kwinana.

Some PARG members were already members of the Mandurah State Emergency Service (SES). From that day forward, PARG and Mandurah SES had a connection.

Today PARG members generally have home based radios, mobile radios and handheld portable radios capable of not only communicating throughout the municipality of Mandurah, and the Peel Region, but world-wide.

Some have the capability of operating base radios in the event of mains power outages. Some PARG members staff the Mandurah SES Communications section. When operating our own amateur radio gear within the SES HQ at Mandurah we have been allocated the callsign VK6SES.

PARG is based at the Mandurah SES HQ in Educations Drive, where we have a VHF repeater (VK6RMH) which has a range well beyond the municipality of Mandurah boundaries. Plus, we have a Winlink gateway.

The Mandurah SES HQ has a standby electricity generator, so both our repeater and Winlink base will be capable of operating normally in the event the electricity grid going offline.

PARG has a remote HF base located on a rural property in the nearby Shire of Murray.

Our Mobile Communications trailer is garaged at the Mandurah SES HQ and can carry SES radios. The PARG callsign within the SES radio network is VKW200 Mandurah 06.

The PARG SOP's state that if a local disaster occurs we are to make our family and neighbours safe, then log on to our repeater and/or simplex channel and await instructions.

Peter Bassett-Scarfe VK6PBS
0432718026 0895352358
President and Secretary
Peel Amateur Radio Group
VK6ARG VK6COM VK6RMH VK6SES
www.PARG.org.au

12M HEAVY DUTY TELESCOPIC POLES

high strength professional telescopic fiberglass pole	
fully extracted length (height)	12m (40ft)
transport length	1.18m (3ft 10")
weight	3.3kg (7lbs)
bottom diameter	55mm (2 1/6")
top diameter	8mm (1/3")
wall thickness	1.4mm - 2mm (1/18" - 1/12")
number of segments	12
pole material	black fiberglass, UV protected specially reinforced multilayer winding

Spiderbeam Heavy Duty fiberglass poles are perfect for building all kinds of wire antennas.
A single person can easily put them up within a few minutes. Especially developed to make our portable equipment even more rugged and durable!

These are extremely strong poles, with a much greater wall thickness (up to 2mm!) than the usual "fishing rod" types. A special reinforcing winding technique - several layers of fiberglass are wound in alternating direction (criss/cross winding) - provides greatly increased lateral and linear strength. Stronger joints are achieved by a much larger overlap between the individual tube segments than usual.

Spiderbeam 12m Heavy Duty poles are very well suited for building 40/80/160m wire GP or inverted L antennas. (Lee W9OY has built a beautiful 80/40m vertical using our poles)
They can also easily support temporary lightweight 1 Element Quad or Delta loops for 20-10m, and dipoles for all bands, especially when used with open wire feedline. (Most baluns would be somewhat heavy). 4-6 poles could be used to build lightweight beams for 40 or 80m.

Even the top segment is 8mm in diameter (and 1.4mm wall thickness), so the poles can be used to their full 12m length - unlike other poles where the top segment is very thin as a whip. During our tests we were able to put 80m inv vee dipoles (made from 1mm diameter enameled copper wire (AWG 18) and open wire feedline) right at the top of the 12m pole.. No way you can do this with a regular "fishing rod"! At 9-10m height, the poles can easily support small VHF / UHF yagis.

The best (and cheapest) wire to use for building such wire antennas (verticals, loops, dipoles etc.) is AWG 18 (= 1mm diameter) enameled copper wire or similar. Thin fishing monofilament (1mm diameter) or similar rope is very suitable for guy lines.

The first prototypes were tested Nov/Dec 2004 during 120km/h winds at the North Sea coast and performed just great! Since then, well over 3000 poles have been installed worldwide. Get yours today and enjoy outdoor radio with a professional heavy duty pole.

www.thehamshack.co.nz

RADIO BY REMOTE CONTROL

By Nick ZL2NEB

Recently I was away from home for a week for work. Normally the evenings in the hotel by myself are pretty boring. Really there is only so much TV or Netflix that you can watch so I before I left, I considered what would it take to allow me to remote control my radio back at home. Ideally, I would have a way that I could fully control the radio, change bands, transmit and receive and operate the tuner, you know, the normal sort of stuff.

In my case the radio that I was wanting to control is an ICOM IC-7300. Those of you who are familiar with this radio will know that it has a USB port on the back that allows you to connect it to a computer. This is usually the way that you would connect the radio to the computer for use with digital modes like FT8 etc. Other radios such as the IC-705 or IC-7610 have a network port on the back of the radio which enables you to directly connect the radio to your home network environment.

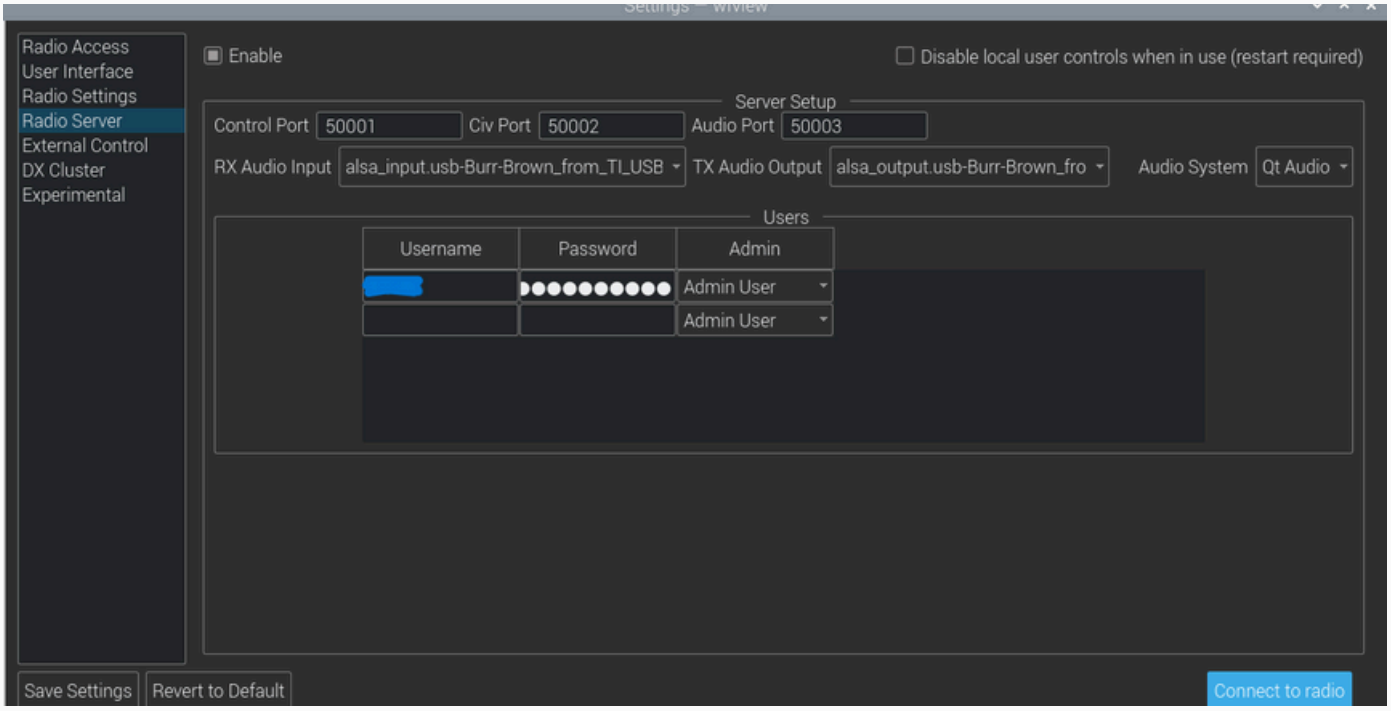
There are several programs that allow you to control your radio from a computer. Most major brands have their own “special” software that allow for full control of your transceiver. The majority of these operate in what we call a “client-server model”. What this means that usually the “server” part of the application runs on a computer which the radio is attached to. The “client” part of the application is what runs on the computer or laptop where you are located. This could be somewhere else in your home or at a friend's house or, in my case, in my hotel room.

There are also several third party free or paid for applications which also support remote control. For ICOM one of the most popular free applications is called WFVIEW. This application supports a client-server configuration, or you can use it to directly control your radio. One of the other benefits of WFVIEW is that it’s available for multiple different computer platforms. That means that versions are supplied that will work on Windows, Apple or Linux. For me that’s important as I mainly use the Linux operating system for most of my computers. Another popular remote-control application that you can use is Rcforb by RemoteHams. This is also a free application that works very well and it popular with clubs that are wanting to provide remote access to a club radio.

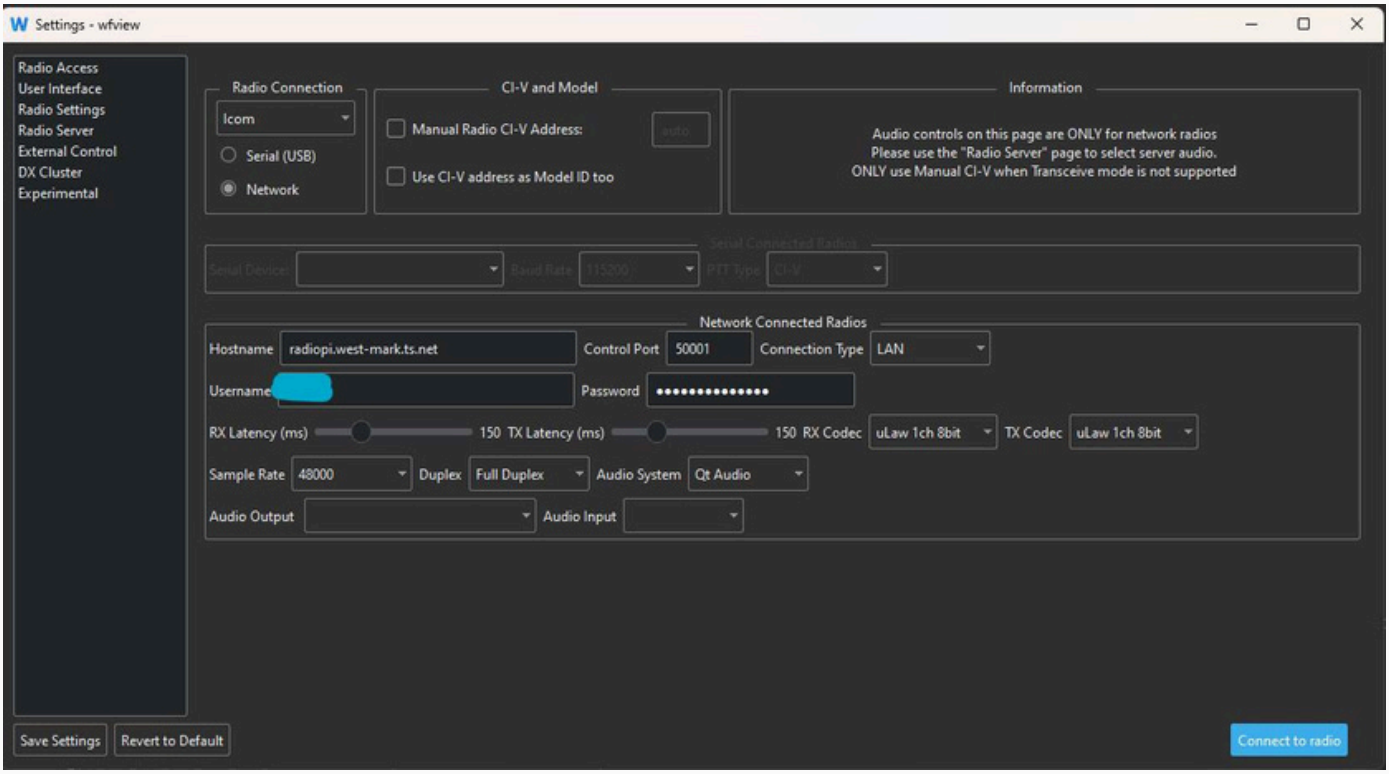
Setup

In my case the radio that I was wanting to control dictated what other components were required for remote operation. As the IC-7300 can only be connected to a computer via USB this meant that I needed some sort of computer control it. This computer doesn’t need to be very powerful, but it does need to be able to run the remote-control server application and ideally it wouldn’t draw a lot of power. As WFVIEW can be run on Linux, I decided that a Raspberry Pi computer would possibly be an ideal server candidate. I happened to have a spare Raspberry Pi 400 so that became my WFVIEW server. Installing the software is relatively straightforward and after a small amount of configuration I had WFVIEW working on the Raspberry Pi and connected to the radio.

Now that I had the radio connected, I needed to enable the remote control function in the WFVIEW software. This is done under the settings section – you only need to set the username and password that you want to use when connecting to the remote server and enable the server. You can see in the picture that there are also three ports listed (don't change these), Control Port, CIV Port and Audio Port. We'll look at these a bit more in a minute.



Now that I had the server sorted out, the next part was to setup the software on my laptop. This the "client" part – it's actually exactly the same WFVIEW software that we use for the server but using a different configuration. Again, the installation of the software was very straightforward. Although I'm using Linux on the Raspberry Pi for the server install, the computer that I use for my remote connection doesn't have to be the same operating system so could be Windows or Apple Mac. Once WFVIEW is installed on the computer that you will be using as your remote station you need to configure the remote connection.



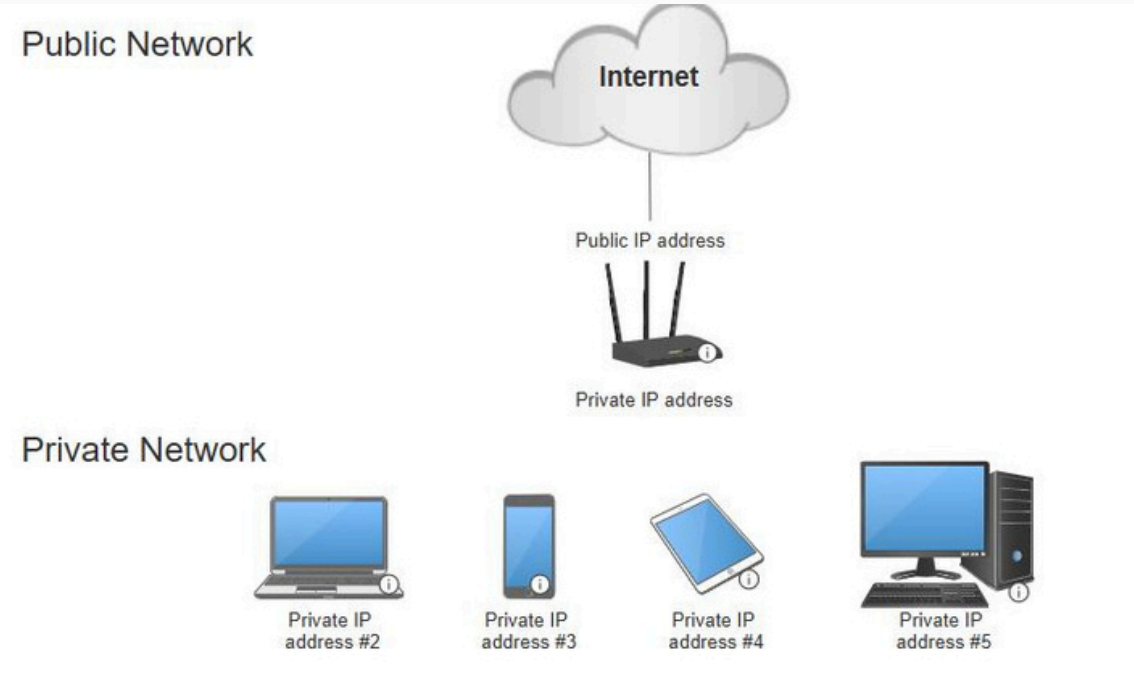
Now that we need to take a brief excursion into the world of computer networking. Brace yourself – I'm going to gloss over a few things here – if you are a network engineer, now is the time to look away!

The Raspberry Pi that I've plugged my radio in is connected to my home network via WIFI. That's great if I want to access it from within my home but what I'm trying to do is to access the radio from somewhere completely different. How do I make my radio accessible from somewhere else?

Normally I would have to configure my Internet router to allow the ports that the WFVIEW are listening on to be access from the Internet. Remember those three ports that we talked about earlier? We would need to setup a rule on our router to allow those three ports to be accessed externally. From a security perspective that doesn't seem like a great idea. Before we carry on, let's just talk about some terminology.

IP Address – An IP address is an address that is assigned to a computer or network device which enables it to communicate with other devices. Within any given network it will be unique. The IP addresses used within your home network will all be different but will be within a given range of addresses that are often allocated by the device that was provided by your Internet Provider.

There are usually two types of IP addresses that we need to consider. The first is the IP address that is allocated by your Internet Provider to the device that they provide. This will be unique to your provider and is the address that we normally need to use to connect to your network from somewhere else on the Internet. We often called these Public IP addresses because they are seen on public networks. The other IP addresses that we need to know about is the ones that are used internally within your home network. These are often allocated by the network device that came from your Internet Provider. We call these IP addresses Private IP addresses because they can only be seen by other devices that are on my home network, such as my phone or tablet or laptop etc. The diagram below shows a very basic network with Public and Private Addresses:



The other thing that we need to understand is "Ports". Remember those ports from earlier? They were the Control Port, CIV Port and Audio Port and they each have numbers assigned to them:

Control Port: 50001
CIV Port: 50002
Audio Port: 50003

These are not IP addresses; they are quite different. These numbers that the WFVIEW is listening on for your remote connection.

Here is one way to think about it.

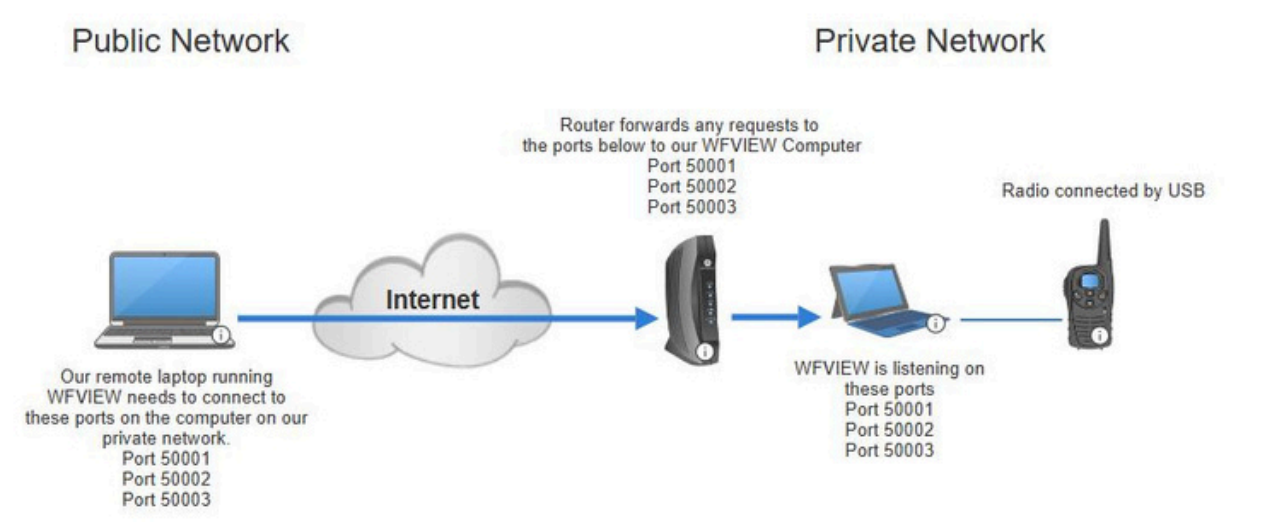
Let's say that you want to talk to someone at Air New Zealand about what the rules are about flying with a 10AH battery. The person that you need to talk to is in the Consumer Freight section which is part of Customer Services. The first thing that you do is look up the phone number for Air New Zealand and make your call. This number is like the Public IP address that we talked about. It's globally accessible.

The phone system answers and gives you a menu – "Press 1 for Customer Service, Press 2 for Engineering, Press 3 for Sales", etc etc. You press 1 for Customer Services – this is like selecting the Private IP address in our earlier diagram. We select "1" because we need to get to Customer Service. Next the phone system asks you - "Press 1 for Ticketing, Press 2 for Consumer Freight, Press 3 for an operator..." We select option 2 – this is like selecting the port that we need.

Now in most phone systems the numbers used internally within a phone system is different from the numbers that are presented externally. At work, my extension is 3874 – this is obviously not a number that is of any use to someone wanting to call me from outside our organisation, but internally anyone who dials my extension is going to get me. Why don't organisations make all their extension numbers accessible directly to the public? Well one of the reasons is cost but the other relates to controlling the flow of communication within an organisation. If everything was available everywhere then I'd be getting calls from telemarketers, people running surveys and spammers. My day is already busy enough with real work-related calls to cope with anything extra.

One additional challenge is that the Public IP address that is given to our device by the Internet Provider often changes as they add or remove devices from their network. This can make it difficult for us to make our connection – the Public IP address that I know my device is on today may not be the same one tomorrow. The way that we normally overcome this is to either ask our Internet provider to give us a "fixed IP address" which they will charge you for. Alternatively, we can use something called Dynamic DNS to help track what address our Internet device currently has allocated to it.

Traditionally if we wanted to make our radio accessible from the Internet, we would add port forwarding rules to our router. This would look like this:

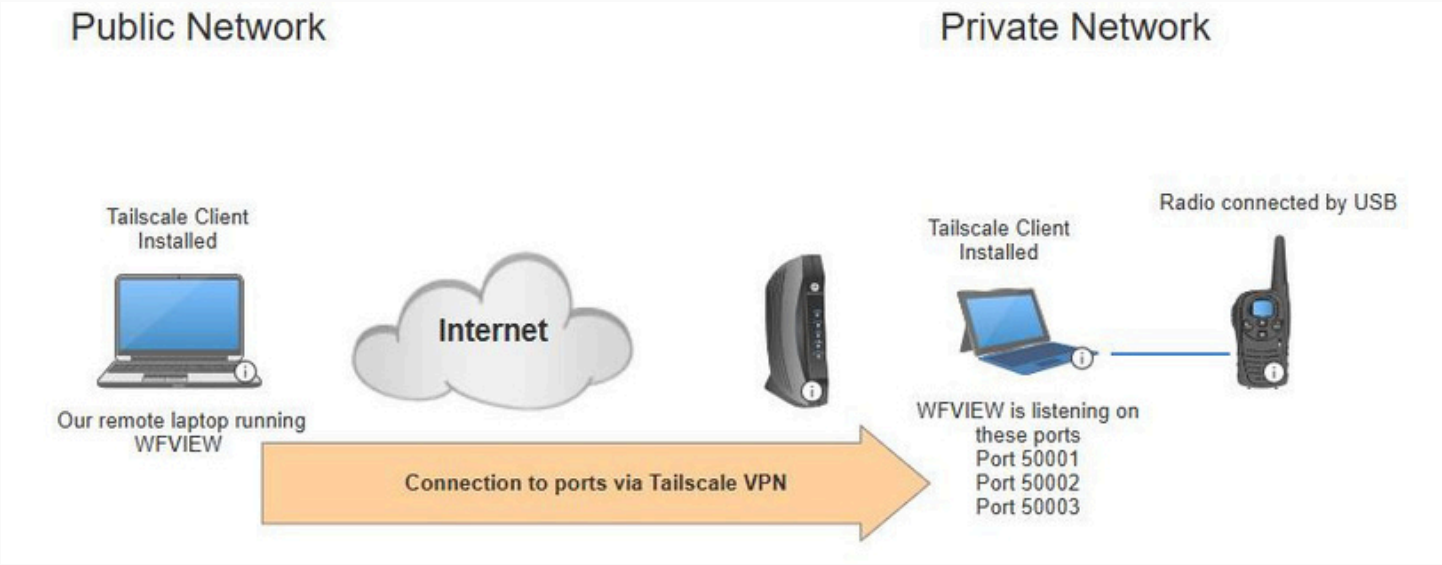


This works but it means that our home network will potentially respond to any request from any computer on ports 50001, 50002 and 50003. Sure, our system is partially protected by the username and password that we setup for but if that gets compromised, we are going to have a real problem.

Thankfully there is another approach that's more secure and, I believe, simpler to implement. Let me introduce Tailscale. Tailscale is a "mesh Virtual Private Network (VPN) service". What's that really mean? A VPN is a way to create a secure encrypted connection between two devices. You often see VPN's advertised to allow you to do things like access streaming services from another country. Some common ones are NordVPN, CyberGhost, SufShark – there are lots of them. While these services are conceptually similar, Tailscale is different in that it allows you to connect two or more devices that you control together.

Tailscale is a free service for up to 100 devices. To implement this, we must install the Tailscale client on the systems that we want to connect. Software is available for all major operating systems so Mac, Windows, Linux etc have clients available. Once the client is installed then all devices associated with our Tailscale account can see each other. The details on exactly how this works is something that you are better off checking on their website if you are interested but essentially the benefits are that it doesn't matter now where we place our WFVIEW server or client, if they are able to connect to the Internet then we can connect them without any additional setup. Tailscale also solves the changing public IP addresses problem as we are no longer trying to connect to the public IP address.

Now our connection looks something like this:

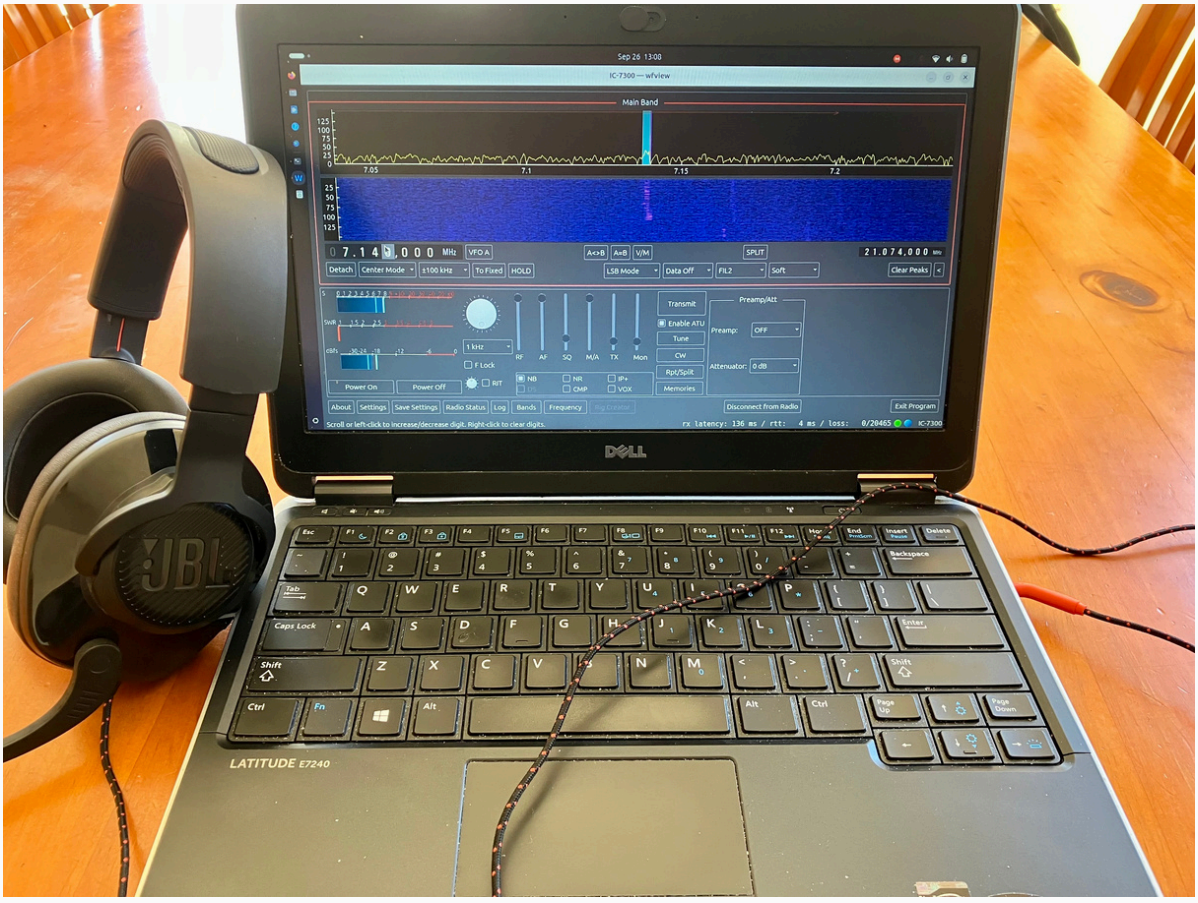


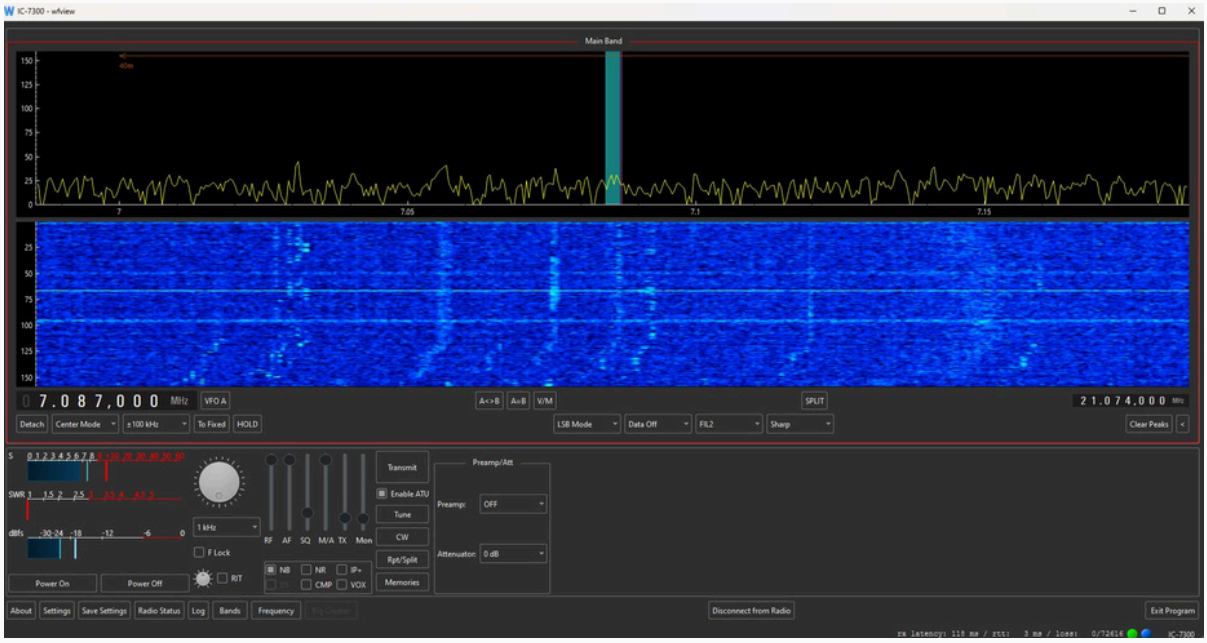
Tailscale also works in situations where your ISP is using Carrier Grade NAT (CGNAT) so if you are faced with that additional challenge then this could well be a great solution.

I've tested this setup with both WFVIEW and RemoteHams (RCFORB) - in both cases it worked very well. I've also used it to connect to an Openwebrx server that I have running at home.

With Tailscale configured I was able to remotely connect to my radio from my hotel room and join our local net. There is a small amount of delay when operating any remote station, but this is manageable. One thing that you do need is a reasonable Internet connection, it doesn't need to be fast, but it does need to not disconnect. In my initial test I had a couple of times when my laptop lost the connection to the hotel Wi-Fi. I was at the very end of a hallway so that probably didn't help. Once it settled down it worked perfectly well.

Below is the WFVIEW running on my remote computer connecting via Tailscale.





Further information can be found here:

WFVIEW: https://wfview.org/

Tailscale: https://tailscale.com/

Video of me using WFVIEW & Tailscale from the hotel: https://youtu.be/844S-CktRQI?si=teeX-gZskakRSA_n

Left click on image for direct link to video

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VOLUNTEERING AS AN AMATEUR RADIO OPERATOR IN NZ

In a world dominated by smartphones and internet-based communication, it's easy to overlook the humble amateur radio. For many Amateur Radio is seen as a relic of the past, but when disaster strikes — the power goes out, the cell towers fail, and people need help — amateur radio operators quietly step in. In many cases they are the invisible voice behind emergency operations, search teams, endurance events, and welfare checks. The help keep messages moving when nothing else can.
As someone who's worked and volunteered in emergency services for over a decade, I can confidently say that amateur radio isn't just a hobby — it's an incredibly powerful and fulfilling way to serve your community.

My Path to Emergency Volunteering
My emergency response journey began well over 12 years ago, firstly as a Clinical Volunteer with St John Ambulance and then five years in the State Emergency Service (SES) in Australia after the Christchurch Earthquakes. There, I got firsthand experience dealing with floods, storm damage, and supporting communities during major weather events. It was an incredibly busy role, in a country with large remote locations with little to no cell coverage. During my time with the SES I was deployed on a number of major searches and events, during which I was exposed to various different radio communication systems. This sparked an ember inside me which smouldered away for mamy years.
After coming back to New Zealand, I joined Land Search and Rescue (LandSAR), where I've now been volunteering for around seven years. I've worked alongside dedicated teams to search for missing persons in remote bush, alpine, and urban environments.
Through these experiences, I saw how critical communications are — especially in areas with limited or no mobile coverage, and ultimaltely that is what led me to amateur radio. It took me some time to step up and try and sit my Licence examination, and after what seemed like years, I attended to the Christchurch Amateur Radio Brach 05 and Sat my ham cram, What started as a hobby quickly became a powerful tool and another way to give back to the community, which has given me so much over the years.

The Role of Amateur Radio Volunteers in NZ
In New Zealand, amateur radio volunteers play an essential role in alongside multiple different agencies and organisations including, but not limited to:

1. Civil Defence and Emergency Comms
We support Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) during natural disasters, providing backup communications for coordination centres, shelters, and isolated areas.

2. Land Search and Rescue (LandSAR)
In SAR operations, especially in the backcountry, VHF and HF radio allow teams to stay in contact across rugged terrain where no other communication exists.

3. Community Events
We assist with radio communications at marathons, bike races, and outdoor events — offering a great way to practice real-time operating and logistics.

OUT ON LOCATION WITH LANDSAR AS A VOLUNTEER

PREPARING THE EQUIPMENT FOR A MISSING PERSON SEARCH – WANDERSEARCH

THE REGAL 2000 WANDATRAK 3 – SIMPLISTIC BUT VERY EFFECTIVE – USING RF FREQUENCIES THAT WORK WHERE CELL AND GPS WILL NOT

ZL1GUD AND ZLK3PAE – DOING THE ALPINE FAULT NEW ACTIVATION

4. AREC – Amateur Radio Emergency Communications

AREC is the formal emergency arm of NZ's amateur radio scene. It provides structured training, radio exercises, and real deployments alongside other services. If you look at the AREC website you will see that after the devastating earthquake in Napier 3 February 1931, Amateur Radio operators provided essential communications between Napier and Wellington using Morse code and AM (Amplitude Modulation).

While many of the above agencies and organisations require you to meet a number of requirements for example memberships and qualifications there are other alternatives out there.

One of the groups that I volunteer with it the Alpine Fault Network – (AFN.ORG.NZ)
Not everyone wants to commit to full emergency rosters — and that's okay.
The Alpine Fault Net (AFN) is a volunteer-driven HF network focused on disaster preparedness. It meets once a month, bringing operators together nationwide to:

Test HF equipment
Practice structured net operation
Simulate post-disaster communication scenarios

AFN is perfect for those who want to give back using amateur radio without formal obligations. It's practical, welcoming, and focused on resilience. It is an excellent way to gain skills and utilize them in a way that will very likely save lives, and make a difference to many in the event of a disaster. It is run and managed by ZL3PWM, Peter Mott, who is a man of many talents, and he has been using these skills and talents to provide some amazing life saving services to the community.

THE MIGHTY G90 FROM XIEGU – PUMPING 20WATTS OUT AROUND THE COUNTRY

ZL1GUD, ZL2NEB AND ZL3PAE OUT AND ABOUT DOING A POTA ACTIVATION

Summits on the Air / Parks on the Air -Learning through Doing.

Not all upskilling needs to be classroom based, and if you are looking at building on your experience with Radio Communications, in particular with Emergency Communications, then I have found activities such as SOTA and POTA are an extremely fun way to do this. Here you will find a community of Amateur Radio operators, who make a challenge out of learning, and get themselves into some amazing locations to set up Communication stations, and make contacts around the country and in fact around the world.

So what is SOTA and POTA?

SOTA – Summits on the Air
You hike, walk, tramp, bike or drive to a summit, set up your portable radio gear, and make contacts. Doing SOTA builds:

Fitness and confidence
Portable operating skills
Real-world problem-solving under pressure

POTA – Parks on the Air
POTA involves much the same but in this case one operate from national parks or DOC reserves and more. It is generally more accessible than SOTA but equally valuable for:

Field antenna setup
Battery/power management
Propagation learning

These activities help develop the same skills used in emergency radio communications as well as build great communities and friendships, while getting you outdoors enjoying the amazing nature the world has to offer.

No Licence? No Problem – Community Emergency Radio Networks (CERNs)

Not everyone is in a position to sit their amateur radio licence, nor does everyone who wants to help necessarily want their Licence. The good news is you don't need an amateur licence to be part of a resilient radio community. Across New Zealand, Australia and the world for that matter people are building Community Emergency Radio Networks (CERNs) using UHF PRS radios — which are:

Licence-free
Affordable
Simple to use
Extremely effective in disasters

During the 2022 floods in New South Wales, entire towns were isolated. Mobile and landline services failed — but communities stayed connected using PRS handhelds and base stations.
These networks enable:

Local welfare checks
Emergency needs coordination
Communication with Civil Defence (via radio relays)

The following video link directs you to a video that came out of the 2022 floods in New South Wales, Australia and shows just how effective these Community Emergeny Radio Networks can be. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mmH3dKQfUk0
If you're looking for a way to help your community without the need for a licence, this is a great place to start. Ask your local council or emergency group if a CERN exists — or consider starting one yourself. I have been able to take part in a number of exercises, experiments and trainings with some of the local networks, and it is heartening to see how well these are coming along and the amazing work being done out in the community.

Bridging the Gap: The Emergency Prepping Net with ZL1GUD

A great example of combining both licensed and licence-free networks is the Emergency Prepping Net, run weekly by Greg ZL1GUD from The Ham Shack NZ.
This net operates across both HF (amateur radio) and UHF PRS, creating a grid-free communication bridge between trained hams and local communities. Even though I fall outside of the Area, I do have family in North Canterbury, so where time and work allows, I will check in also and take part to keep my finger on the pulse, and it is a great way for me to test my setup and see how long it would take me to get on the air, and how long I could communicate for, with the grid free setup I have.

It:
Tests gear and operating practices weekly
Encourages resilience through practice
Builds real-world comms skills across the radio community

This dual-mode setup is a powerful model for emergency preparedness — enabling communication even when the grid is down and communities are isolated. Not only does Greg run these check ins but he also has been organising meetups for the groups so they can see each other in the flesh and put faces to call signs. I have been lucky enough to go along to a few of then so far, and it has been great. It is an excellent example of someone who is not just talking the talk but also walking the walk, and supporting the community.

Why It All Matters
Volunteering in amateur radio has taught me more than I ever imagined — about people, technology, teamwork, and personal resilience.
When things go wrong — when the power's out and the roads are blocked — it's not just about radios. It's about people who care enough to prepare, connect, and show up.

If you want to Get Involved then there are multiple different options, some of which I have included here.

Get your amateur radio licence: www.nzart.org.nz – Check out the NZART Website and find out where your local club is located. From there you can make contact and join your local club and perhaps sit your Ham Cram. An action-packed weekend, designed to take the beginner, teach them the basics, prepare for and then sit you exam all in one weekend. I was very nervous to sit my exam, with school being many years behind me, but the process was both educational and entertaining, and I passed, as did everyone else on my couse 😊

For an **Australian License** here are some links https://auslegalhub.com/australia-ham-radio-license/

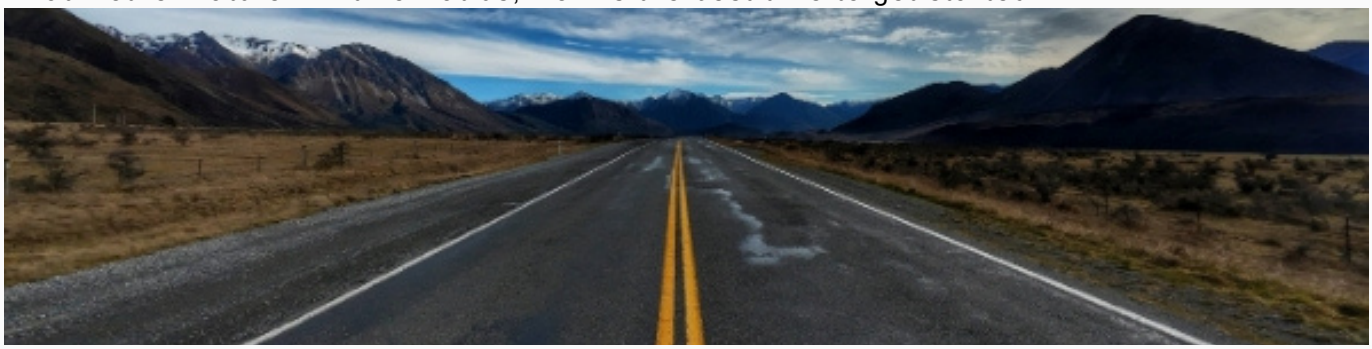
Volunteer with AREC: www.arec.nz

Try SOTA or POTA to build real-world field skills. If you are New Zealand based, then check out the ZL Sota Page on Facebook, and touch base with the group. There is more than likely someone in your area who would take you out with them to experience it in person and see what it is all about. Last week during on of the Ham Shack events, ZL3RIK, one of the POTA Masters, was kind enough to set up his radios and allowed several people, who wanted to, to have a go at doing a POTA activation. It was a lot of fun, and they could not have asked for a better person to walk them through it,

Join the Alpine Fault Net: www.afn.org.nz The Alpine Fault Network is a great low stress way to get involved in Disaster Preparedness within the Amateur Radio field, and there is always something else in the works, including Digital Modes. Imagine being able to send Emails, Data and Sitreps over the airwaves, fully independent of grid power, and grid communications. It is very cool indeed.

Start or join a PRS community radio network. Have a look and see if there is one already in your community. If not, then consider getting on started. This is a great way to get into Energency Communications, without needing to be Licenced.

Radio isn't just a backup — it's a backbone. Whether you're on a mountaintop, in a flooded town, or helping your neighbours, there's a role for you, and given we never known when or what mother nature will throw at us, Now is the best time to get started.



So why not join us in this amazing hobby?

MORSE CODE - HOW I STARTED

CARYN KD2GUT

"Squirrels are the best thing to grow on trees."

This is where it begins: not with the contest, the marathon, the POTA activation or even the quick-exchange QSO. It begins with the ragchew.

In the CW universe, each of those activities has its place but for me, the ragchew is the center of that universe.

So I am here to plead the case for dits and dahs. I am a New School ham with an Old School brain. I have logged only 11 years on the air, four of them as a CW op. An old J-38 straight key given to me in my first year as a gesture of faith and encouragement from a fellow club member was burning a hole in my conscience. You don't let such gifts gather dust, especially if you've made a promise to learn the code. So I took lessons and practiced until I hit the proverbial 10 wpm wall and found it to be an immovable edifice. Fortunately, I switched gears, found a wise coach and an innovative training program and I eventually leapt off that all-too-common wpm plateau. Surprisingly, I didn't go splat on the rocks below.

I discovered instead that I'd ended up in the Land of CW Ragchew. Suddenly there wasn't just the staccato of an exchange; there was the fluid music of the code, a dance partnership. (I dance most often using a paddle now but I haven't turned the J-38 into a dust magnet. It had been my springboard to where I am now, you see, so I owe it some love.)

I'm writing this in the minutes after my weekly Wednesday night ragchew net hosted here in the States on 40 metres by the OMIK Amateur Radio Association. All speeds, all keys, all levels of proficiency are welcome -- and so was I, in fact, two years ago when I checked in for the first time with a fist that was suffering from the equivalent of mic fright. My fist has since found its voice but, even if it hadn't, on a good night or a bad night I've always found myself among friends here - hams of varying proficiency, just like me.

CW ops know that we are all a work in progress. There are nights when my brain is checking out at the same time I am trying to check in. So what? In simple conversations over coffee with non-hams, haven't I often found myself tongue-tied too?

Ham radio gives us the gift of being in a state of perpetual self-challenge. Becoming a CW op has taught me that we should never let that gift gather dust.

CARYN
KD2GUT

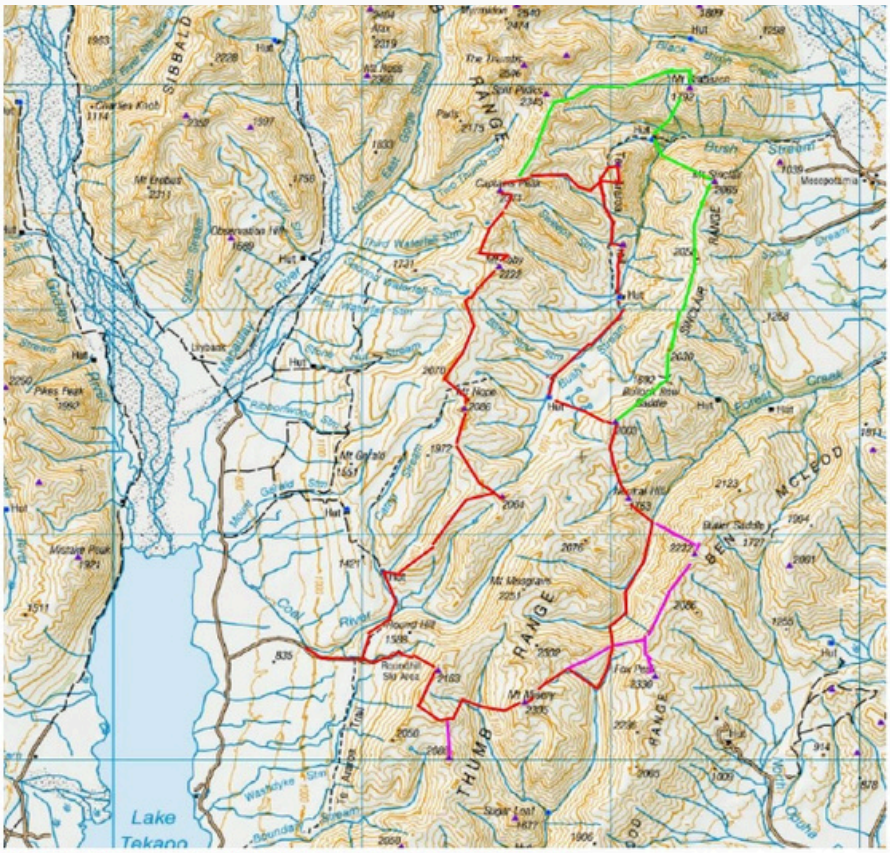
This place is called Caumsett State Park here in Suffolk County, NY. I was using the callsign K0MIK, for the OMIK Amateur Radio Association, in honor of the building you see in the distance, which is the birthplace of Jupiter Hammon, considered the first published Black author on this side of the pond. He was born in 1711 so we can't say he was the first published Black author in the United States, since the US did not yet exist but.....that was the occasion. I felt that I'd disappointed the group with the failure to get the necessary amount to make the contacts but honestly, NO ONE was making contacts on that day in ANY mode!

I was using a portable paddle, the cwmorse.us, my rig was the Yaesu FT-891 running 30w into a resonant vertical hamstick.

SOTA OPERATORS

MATT ZL4NVW

TWO THUMB – BEN MCLEOD - MISERY CIRCUIT

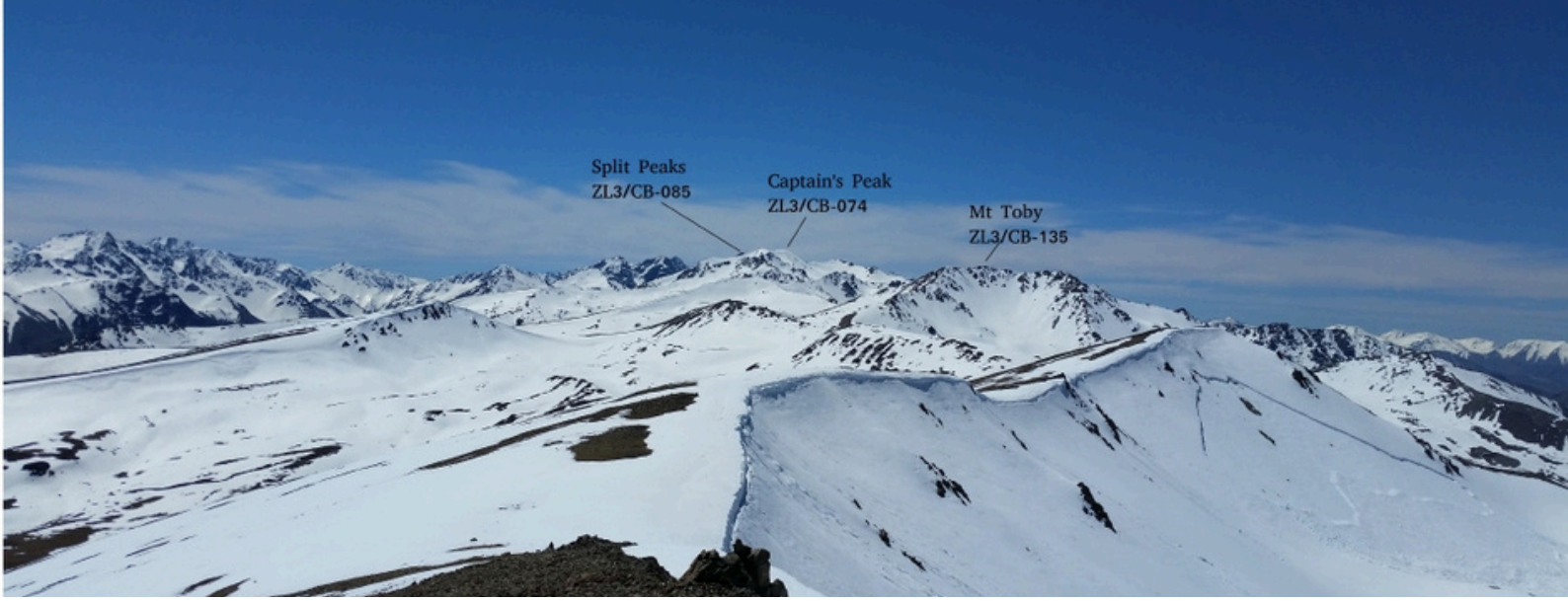


Ambitious plan: red-green-red-pink-red outer loop (clockwise).
Fallback plan red-pink-red loop.
Actual trip – red loop.

Last week I looked out of my window and, for the first time in many months, could see no snow. Time to pick off one of those 'tops tours' I've been dreaming of all winter. A small spiral-bound notebook has pages of the results of such dreams: lists of peaks, huts, parks, durations and points.

The Two Thumb Range runs up the length of the western side of Lake Tekapo, starting at roundedhill

run-blocks of Burkes Pass in the south and merging finally into a chaos of peaks, clefts and glaciers as it joins the main divide in the north. The range forms western limit of Te Kahui Kaupeka conservation park, a wedge-shaped area of high country the other sides of which are formed by the Ben McLeod Range and the Rangitata River.
The planned trip involved following the Two Thumb Range north from the park boundary at Round Hill Skifield until everything became too pointy & technical for my liking – somewhere around Spilt Peak. I'd then cut east to pick up the Sinclair and Ben McLeod Ranges, which I'd follow back South to Fox Peak just outside the park's southern boundary. Then head back to my start point at Round Hill Skifield via Mt Misery. This area encompassed 15 SOTA summits, of which I could realistically hope to string 13 together into a nice tops circuit. Well, that was the plan.
Ambitious plan:

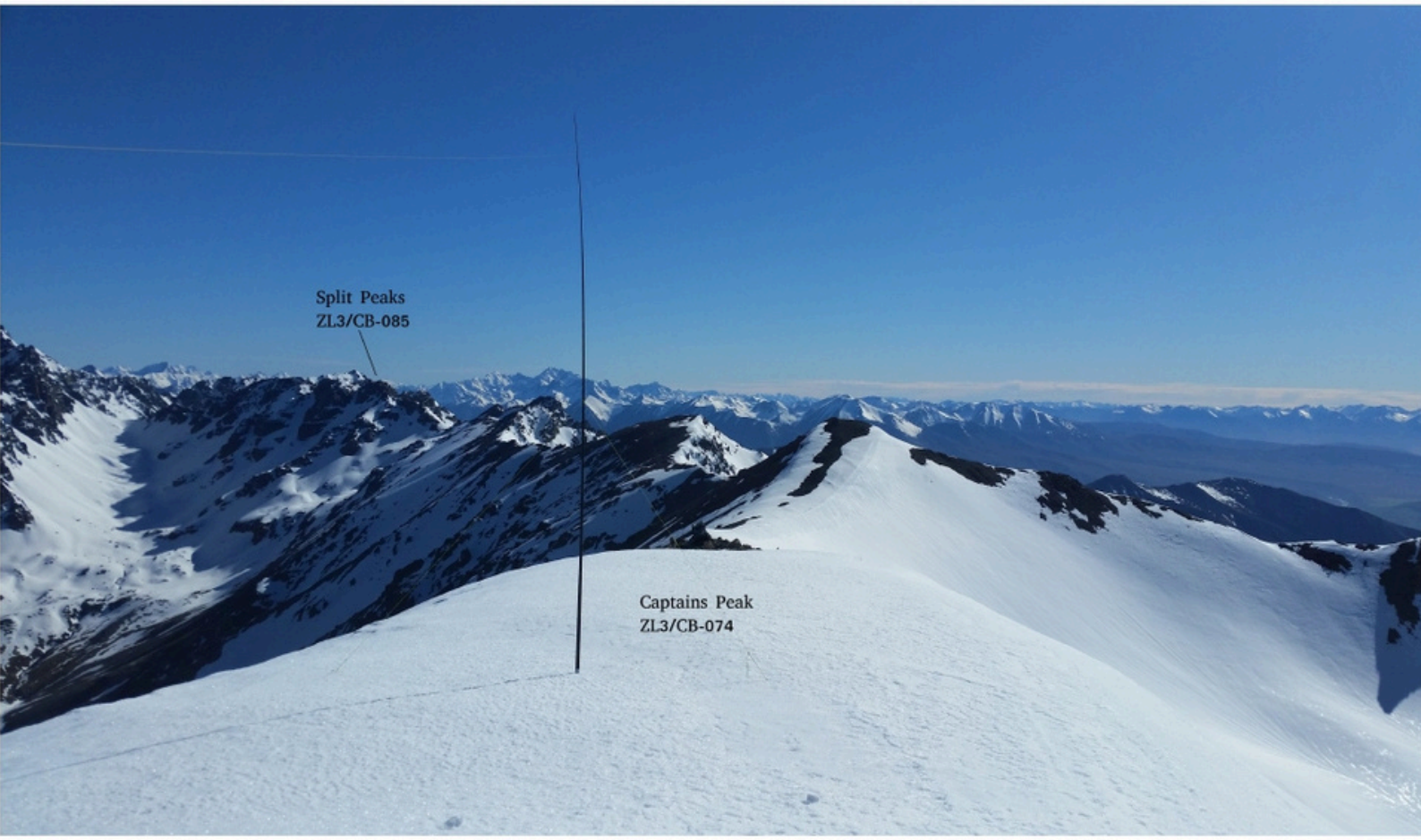


Unaccustomed levels of preparedness saw me at work on Wednesday morning with all I needed for the trip, ready for the 3km walk into Camp Stream Hut on Wednesday night along the poled DOC Te Araroa Trail.

Issue #1: the skifield access gate was locked at at the park boundary – make that a 6km walk.
Issue #2: no water at the hut meaning a 50m descent down to the creek with the billy & wash-gear.
Issue #3: no spare socks. 5 days on a single pair. This'll be fun!

Camp Stream hut is a historic musterer's hut built in 1898 - a single skin or iron over a timber frame, now maintained by the McKenzie Alpine Trust ($10 donation). Set at 1200m on a sunny terrace above a valley of golden tussock, it's a beautiful spot to relax in the evening sun. And a bloody freeing spot to spend a night.

Camp between Mt Toby and Captains Peak



Two Thumb Range north from Captain's Peak

Thursday:
Thursday I awake to sunshine lighting the tips of the peaks opposite; to frozen socks and frozen boots. The socks go in the billy to defrost over a low heat. The boots get hot water poured over them until they flex enough to admit feet. A brew of tea warms me up ready for the day.

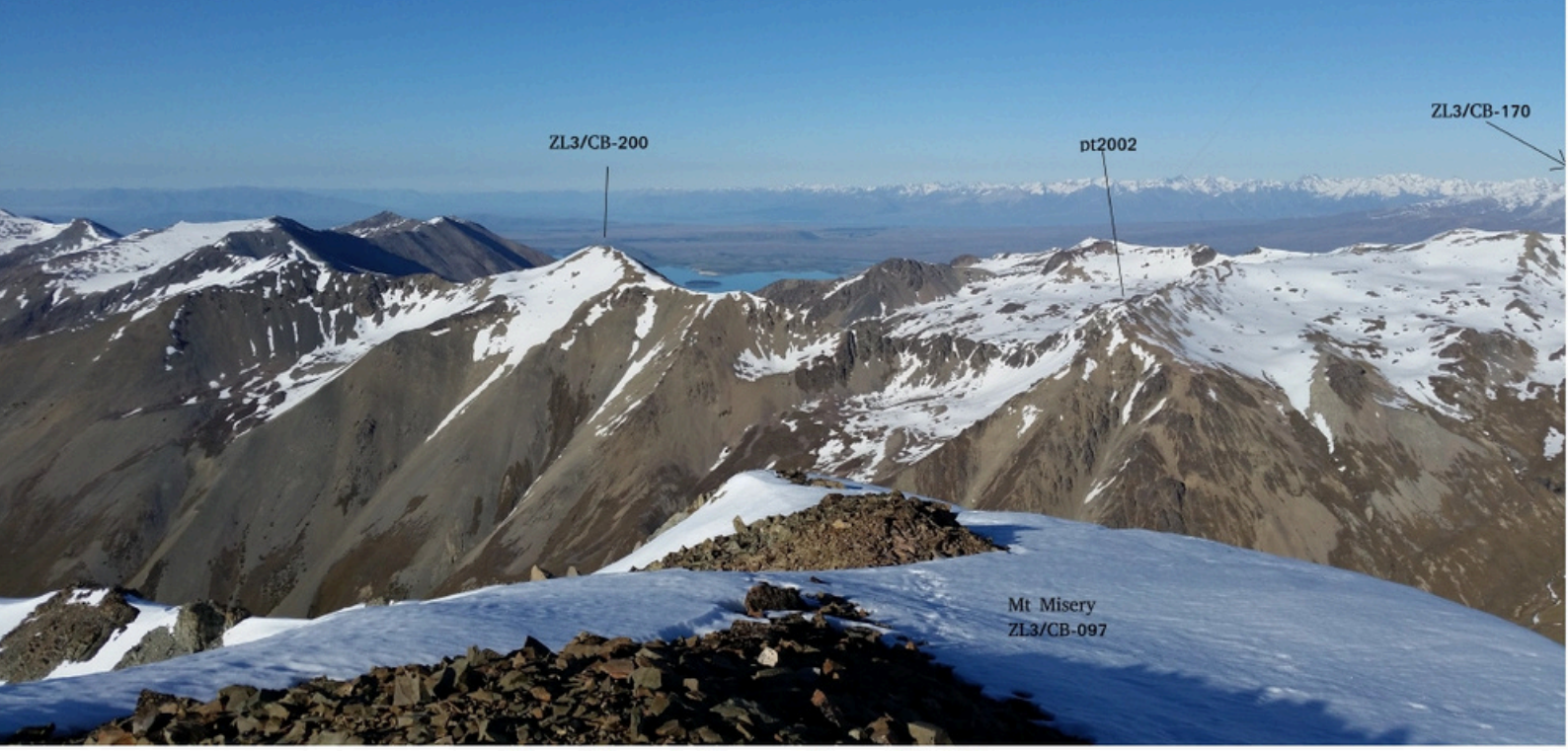
The spur east of the hut climbs steadily to the ridgeline at 1900m, where it becomes rocky and difficult travel. The basin to it's south is rolling and snow-clad, its small tarn a piercing blue whitegrey landscape. I sidle terraces east on firm crunchy ice to the saddle at it head and climb to the day's first peak – ZL3/CB-214 – an unnamed 8-pointer on the Two Thumb Range.

The day is spent traversing the range north as in the valley below the blue depths of Lake Tekapo transition to the broad gravel flats of the Godley Valley. After the hard night's frost, snow remains firm and going is easy with the crampons barely removed all day. As the day progresses, the cellphone signal dwindles and by the afternoon we're spotting via commercial satellite – which for once works flawlessly.

Mt Braun Elwert if the 2nd 8-pointer for the day, a tight knife-edge of a summit making for an interesting activation. From here the rest of the trip can be spied out – the ridgeline cutting west over Red Stag Pass before climbing north over Mt Toby and Captains Peak before disappearing into the alpine chaos beyond Split Peaks.

Snow is finally softening by the time I summit Mt Toby to claim the final 10 points for the day in the company of a wonderful pool of chasers. One of those times I really feel the community that is SOTA. Rather than continue towards Captains, I drop into the basin 200m below Mt Toby where the creek emerges briefly from the snow and a small terrace of gravel offers a campspot so tempting I cannot pass it by.

Friday
An early start takes me back onto the ridgeline between Mt Toby & Captains's Peak. A complicated series of sidles on the night's cold-hard ice bypass the two intermediate summits and lead to the broad snow-basin west of Captains. A straight forward climb in dazzling morning light to the rounded summit. I'm too late to catch the 8am Mainland net, and too early for the normal SOTA crowd to be active, so long, slow activation follows. But we get there.



Two Thumb Range from Mt Misery

The ridgeline beyond Captain Peak is as challenging as the map indicates, and the apparent scree faces leading to Split Peak look more like bare rock. So I shelve the 'ambitious plan' that would take in a wide loop over Split Peak, Brabazon and Mt Sinclair and instead descend into the warm tussocklands of Bush Stream where easy 4 and 6 pointers await, along with warm cozy huts with feather-soft mattresses for the night.

The afternoon's two easy' peaks prove more challenging than expected with the bands silent with the forecast solar flare. A tune around FT8 frequencies finds the only activity on 10m. Eventually 40m coughs up enough chasers to complete an activation, including a surprisingly strong VK2IO experiencing similar problems activating VKFF-1655. Both the 6-point Crooked Spur (ZL3/CB-353) and the unnamed 4-point ZL3/CB-510 are brief scrambles up from the Te Araroa Trail. We make good progress up the valley stopping at Stone Hut for afternoon smoko before continuing the further 8km to Royal Hut for the night.

Saturday
Saturday is the make-or-break point for the latter half of the trip. The Ben McLeod Range lies 2 catchments east of Royal Hut, making for 3 total ascents. And I need to arrive there early enough to traverse it's length to Fox Peak and then drop to a suitable campspot. It's a big ask on a pair of tired feet, but with an easier Plan B to simply follow Forest Creek rather than climb that 3rd range.

Gentle tussock slopes lead east from Royal Hut to an unnamed landslip lake below an unnamed 2003m peak (ZL3/CB-239). Canterbury lies blanketed in cloud to the northeast, but the rest of the day's peaks are clear against a vivid blue sky.

A steep descent into Neutral Creek requires crampons, though the sun-baked ascent to Neutral Peak beyond does not, energy-flagging close contours to an easy flat summit.

Snow has been unusably soft on the descent from Neutral Hill after 3 days in the 20s, despite frosts each night. The ascent to the 10-point Ben McLeod Range is certainly possible up the spur opposite, but travel along the ridgeline would be at best sapping in soft snow, likely impossible. An unexpected hut lies in Forest Creek below – and I toy with the idea of dropping overnight gear at the hut for a there-and-back ascent to bag the peak, returning for the night. But the river is high with snowmelt, my feet are tired, and I really ought to be in work on Monday!

So instead I opt for the 'easy' walk up Forest Creek, and the low 1900m pass into the South Opuha to set myself up for an easy summit of Mt Misery the next day. There's deep soft snow on the dark south-face of the pass, but we follow tahr prints to a rocky spur and downclimb, keeping well clear of the avalanche-soft snow faces. Again a small patch of gravel above the stream right on the snowline provides a comfortable camp for the night and a short ascent the next morning.

Mt Misery from above camp – Sunday morning.

Sunday
Night-hard snow basins offer firm easy travel to the peak the next morning. The alarm is set for 5:30 for an 'alpine start' but I'm packed and away by then. 7:45 sees me on the summit, radio on and lurking on 3.730MHz hoping to pick up a few of the regulars tuning in to the Mainland net – a successful strategy. A further 15 minutes on 3.690MHz brings the tally up to a respectable 10.

All that remains is to descend the steep icy slopes into Opuha Creek and climb back onto the Two Thumb Range to return to Round Hill Skifield, and my start point. Hopefully via a couple of 8-point peaks.

Those initial steps onto a 500m face of steep blue ice are always nervous, but after a few paces the brain realises that the crampons do bite, the ice-axe does hold and the descent becomes easy. A further 500m of free-running fine scree lead to the South Opuha valley floor. Just a single climb for the day up tussock faces beyond. I stand on pt2002 looking at the steep snow-saddle between be and ZL3/CB-200. I could certainly descend it now, though it's becoming soft. But my chances of ascending it again after a couple of hours of melt seem slim, and so for the 3rd time this trip I discard a peak and continue north along the range to ZL3/CB-170.

The steep scree descent to Roundhill skifield is quick, even on sore feet. The 6km walk down the skifield access road to the locked gate takes for ever (thanks DOC).

10 of 13 summits activated. 78 of a possible 106 points. That's about a B-. Good enough?

But at least there's a curry-house in Twizel. And the 4-square sells socks.

Editors note:
Part 2 of last months article will be in the November mag.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

IN NEXT THE NOVEMBER MAGAZINE YOU WILL SEE A RANGE OF NEW

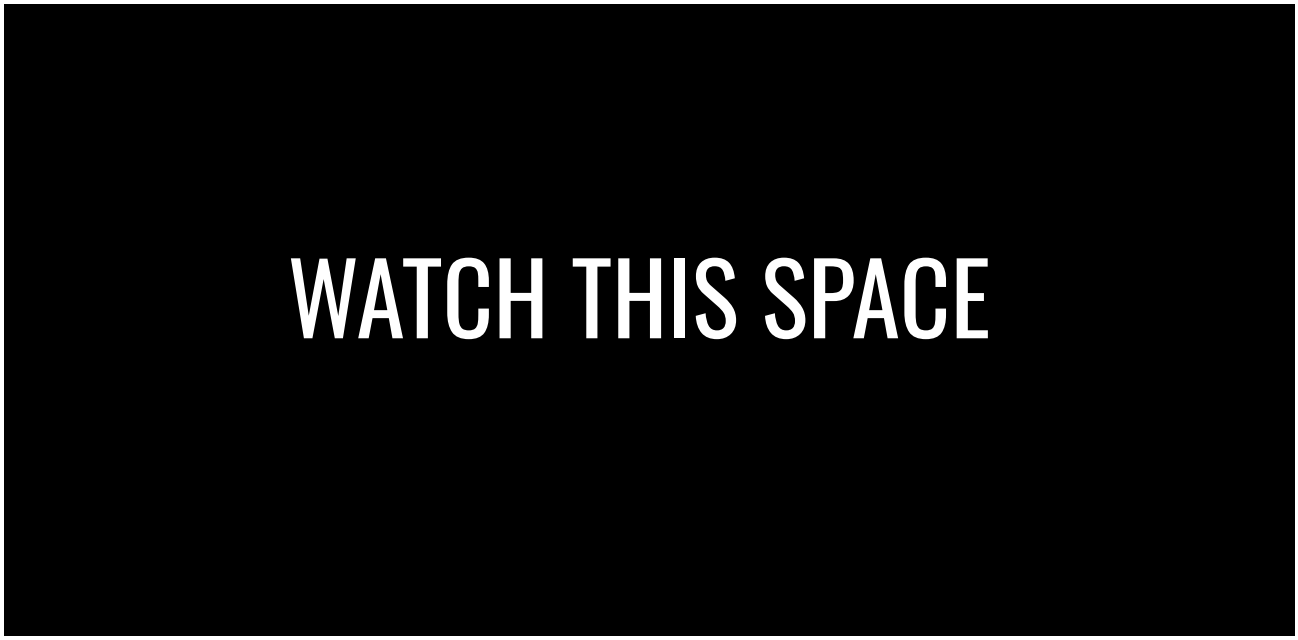
POTA & SOTA PRODUCTS THAT ARE GOING TO CHANGE THE GAME

COMPLETELY!

THE HAM SHACK

WE HAVE SECURED THE DISTRIBUTION RIGHTS FOR AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

SAMPLES ARE BEING FLOWN IN FOR EAST FEST





CANTERBURY AMATEUR RADIO MEETUP/SOCIAL

Greg ZL1GUD thought it would be a good idea to get to “meet the voices” that we talk to, so organised a get together in a central park (that is also a POTA park of course).

The night before the get together there were gale warnings with winds predicted at 150 kph but the day dawned calm and as we drove towards Spencer Park the weather improved.

The Ham Shack had sponsored a sausage sizzle and the first hams arrived just before 9am.

14 radio amateurs joined us at the park. Rick ZL3RIK took the opportunity to introduce newcomers to POTA activations and he had them call “CQ Parks on the Air” and experiencing the fun that this can be. The “Green Radio enthusiasts brought down their gear and show us how it all works.

Greg says that he is going to organise the social get togethers monthly in different places around Canterbury/East Coast with the October Meetup being on Rakaia Island and the November Meetup being in Kaikoura where he hopes the Canterbury hams and Blenheim/Nelson hams will get together for a day of activations and ragchewing.







We received two emails after the event

Hi Greg, a quick thank you for organising the greet & meet today at Spencer Park.

It was still a great success.

73
John
ZL3TMF

Hi Greg, thanks for organizing last Sunday, a great way to meet the voices.
Thanks

Gary
ZL1GA

ZR1AAH - Africa Correspondent

PORTABLE HEX BEAM

Sunday morning.....no wind, no rain and beautiful blue sky, a perfect day to test the portable hex beam that I have built over the last few days. A 20m mono-bander that will later be adapted for 15 and 10m bands as well.

For the tests today I pushed her up to about 5-6m on a un-stayed, glass fiber telescopic mast and was very happy with the results. An SWR of between 1.5 and 1.8 across 14.150 / 14.350mhz without any adjustments from the design specs. With a bit of trimming to the tip spacing I'm sure this can be improved to below 1.5 across the working range.

North American stations were heard at S7 to S8 consistently and the local noise level was about S2. Off the back of the beam these station could not be heard !

LONG WIRE KITE ANTENNA

ALLEN WOOD

Another beautiful day down here in the Western Cape, a perfect opportunity to set up a field station on the beach.

I decided to use my RACAL PRM4051 rig with NVIS horizontal dipole and a long wire kite antenna.

Here the station with the horizontal antenna set up at about 2.1m high and just on last night's high tide level.

Drama, drama, drama ! Don't try a kite antenna in dry air "berg wind" weather conditions without a static discharge system ! The long wire antenna was disconnected very quickly after a couple of hefty shocks !

Sunday, November 16th, 2025 - From 10:00 am

Southern Peninsula Amateur Radio Club (SPARC)

Proudly presents:

The 2025 Rosebud RadioFest

If you wish to sell or display at this year's Fest,

Email to: treasurer@sparc.asn.au

Please Advise:

- **Name of organisation/trader/individual**
- **Contact No. / Email address**
- **Number of tables required inside/outside**
- **Powered / Unpowered**
  Limited power available: First in - Best Dressed
- **Any additional requirements**

***As of 2025, all bookings via treasurer@sparc.asn.au**
Enquiries: Mark VK3PDG - 0407 844 063. Updates & event info at www.rosebudradiofest.com & Hamfests Australasia Grp (Facebook)

YL RAISA'S POST

I'm flying to Japan right now!! This is another radio trip made possible by our hobby! Because Amateur Radio = friends all over the world.

Thanks to the Japanese Amateur Radio Association for giving me the callsign JQ3LVV!
Last year in the Czech Republic, at the international OL88YL meeting, I met Mayumi JP3AYQ. Our common friend Eva HB9FPM brought us together.

And so, through October 10th, we, three sisters from different countries, will be getting to know incredible Japan and working the airwaves there:

October 4-5 from a club station in Kyoto +
October 8 from JA4DPL and maybe somewhere else.

I wonder what the conditions will be in the Land of the Rising Sun! I will try to post from there! See you On the Air!

with Mayumi JP3AYQ

Listen for us:

October 4-5 from a club station in Kyoto +
October 8 from JA4DPL and maybe somewhere else.

with Eva HB9FPM

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE - TOWER

Commercially made centre pivot tower
10 m high/long including 4 x new 1m long mounting bolts with nuts. Top plate includes bolts at standard Yaesu rotator mount centres.

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

Cost $1,925 (it is on the ground but you will need a haib and truck to relocate) OR Make an Offer

Location - Loburn, Canterbury

Greg ZL1GUD@proton.me
+64 221 229 240

FOR SALE - TH3 3 element yagi for 10, 15 & 20m Pre-Owned

Gain: 5.8 dBd (avg.).
F/B Ratio: 25 dB (avg.).
Max Power: 600 Watts PEP.
Boom Length: 12 Feet.
Longest Element: 27 Feet 3 inches.
Turning Radius: 14 feet 9 inches.
Mast Diameter: 1.25 - 2.0 inches OD.
Surface Area: 3.35 sq. feet.
Net weight: 21 pounds.
Wind Survival: 80 mph.

Cost $500

Location - Loburn, Canterbury

Greg ZL1GUD@proton.me
+64 221 229 240

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