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NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO



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Photograph Doug ZL1DBH

NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE

ZL1DRS - Activating Te Miro Scenic Reserve

NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE

A FREE MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY THE HAM SHACK
AMBRIG LIMITED T/A THE HAM SHACK

Email:
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New Zealand & Australian Amateur Radio Magazine is now being sent to every amateur radio club in New Zealand and Australia ... and it's all for FREE

Our aim is to bring you inspiring stories and news of exciting activations and give you ideas to fuel your amateur radio dreams, whether it is a project, review or DX-Pedition.

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

Note: The magazine is limited to 20Mb so if your event is more than a month in away we may hold the advert until next month. Also if you want a free advert please send a compiled A4 jpg or png advert - I am NOT doing the artwork for your free advert.

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Official NZ Agent



The Ham Shack will be at the NZART Conference

We have **LOTS** of conference specials so, call us or email us at least a week before conference for a deal and we will bring them with us for collection at the NZART 2026 conference (special deals for conference attendees only)

Anything purchased at the NZART Conference will get you a free cap.

&

Any purchase made at conference or for delivery at conference will put you in a lucky draw to win an Alinco DJ-CRX7* handheld.

We will have all of our products available for purchase (in limited quantities).

The Spiderbeam yagi antennas will be brought on order due to their size.

Order your cables and connectors and we will make up your cable for FREE

Please come and say hello.

Greg ZL1GUD



LOTS of POTA gear available.

*license required

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Proof of Amateur Licence required for all radio purchases



ZL1GUD at Amberley Beach activating ZLP/CB-0784

From the Editor

There are hobbies, and then there are callings. Amateur radio was never a casual interest for me. It was a doorway. A passport. A reason to stay up too late and wake up too early. It has been a thread running through my life — sometimes quietly in the background, sometimes front and centre with a microphone in hand and a beam pointed at the horizon.

I was first drawn to radio by the simple magic of it. The idea that a piece of wire, some metal, and a box of components could carry my voice across mountains, oceans, and continents felt like something bordering on sorcery. No internet. No infrastructure. Just physics. That raw, elegant simplicity still grips me.

Amateur radio is not about equipment. It's about people. Behind every callsign is a story. Farmers. Engineers. Retirees. Students. Pilots. Sailors. Dreamers.

Some contacts last five minutes. Others turn into decades-long friendships. I have met people on the air who I would never have crossed paths with otherwise. Different cultures, different backgrounds — connected by a shared fascination with radio waves.

The hobby levels the field. On air, it doesn't matter what car you drive or what job title you carry. What matters is your signal, your courtesy, and your integrity.



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ZL2NET GETTING BACK INTO AMATEUR RADIO

MICHAEL HALLAGER

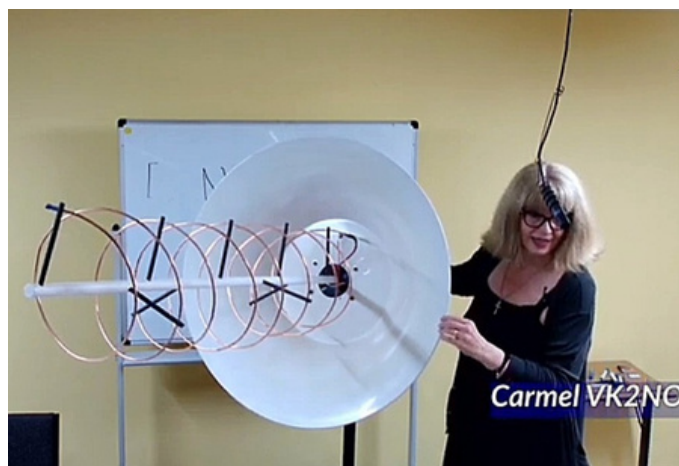
I got into electrical stuff from an early age according to my Mother. My first real foray into electronics was at the age of six (I think it was) when my parents gave me a David Reid electronics kit for my birthday. I was so excited when the crystal set worked and picked up local radio stations.

At the age of 12 I was browsing the electronics section in the Henderson library when Alex Learmond (ZL1BVK - now a silent key) got chatting with me and invited me to his place to see Amateur Radio in action. I was then invited to a Branch 03 Western Suburbs Radio Club fox hunt. Someone else beat us to it but I was hooked.

The following year 1993 I did night school classes with Bryce Deluca (ZL1AXT), whom I am still in contact with, and sat and passed the test in 1994.

With my career in the Internet industry I have been out of Amateur Radio for the last 20 years but I have come back via AREC and amazed to see the internet-radio fusion happening. I now live at Norsewood on 1.1 acres which is a great rural township with an elevated location very suitable for this hobby.

I also combine this with my hunting and hiking in the local Ruahine Forest Park.



Helix experiment

In 2025 decided to do something stupid -but it works well; a compact 2m helix with some new modifications to Kraus' formulae and confirmation of good beamwidth later when modeled in NEC and Matlab, with minimum gain difference when compared with the accepted formula. Mostly junk parts. Discussed my helix experiment in a recent talk with ARNSW on their 'Antenna Day' talk session.

Good contacts interstate on three watts. Possibly the only 'portable' 2m traveling wave antenna in the world of this nature; can be easily disassembled for transport to field days etc. Added a counterweight 'shelf' to hold a radio and battery. The shelf is actually a paper towel holder from a restroom (cleaned up first of course).

All-in-all a fun project -but what a dumb idea :) -yet it does put my Moxon to shame :D

Carmel VK2NO

RADIO ELECTRONICS GROUP NEXT HAMCRAM AMATEUR RADIO COURSE




Glenview Club, 211 Peacockes Rd,
Hamilton .

18th -19 April 2026

Contact Chris Hattan
myzl1cjh@gmail.com

LIMITED
SEATS
ENROLL
TODAY!



WORKING 3Y0K - BOUVET ISLAND

DANIEL ERICKSON ZL4DE

On 9 March 2026 at 0919 UTC, I had the thrill of logging one of the most sought-after contacts in amateur radio – Bouvet Island. Using FT8 on 20 metres (14.090 MHz) in Hound mode, I successfully worked the 3Y0K DXpedition team. For many amateur radio operators, this is the kind of contact that sits on the wish list for years. Bouvet Island has long been considered one of the most difficult DX entities to work, so when the opportunity finally came up, the radio shack was ready.

What is the 3Y0K DXpedition?

The 3Y0K DXpedition is a major international amateur radio expedition to Bouvet Island, one of the most remote islands on Earth. Located roughly midway between Antarctica and South Africa, Bouvet is a Norwegian dependency that is:

Completely uninhabited

Covered mostly by glacier

Extremely difficult to land on due to steep cliffs and heavy seas

Because of these challenges, amateur radio activity from Bouvet is extremely rare. Major DXpeditions may only occur once every decade or two, and some attempts have previously been forced to abort due to weather or logistical issues.

The 3Y0K team deployed a large multi-operator station with several transmitters and antennas to maximise worldwide contacts over a limited operating window. Their goal was to give as many radio amateurs as possible the opportunity to log Bouvet.

One of the Most Wanted DX Entities

Bouvet Island consistently ranks near the top of the DXCC Most Wanted List maintained by the American Radio Relay League.

For many operators chasing DXCC awards, Bouvet is often one of the last missing entities. The reasons include:

Extremely remote location

Harsh Antarctic weather

Limited landing sites

High logistical costs for expeditions

Because of this, when Bouvet appears on the air, the pile-ups become intense and stations worldwide compete for a contact.

Making the Contact – FT8 on 20 Metres

My contact occurred on:

Date: 9 March 2026

Time: 0919 UTC

Band: 20 metres

Frequency: 14.090 MHz

Mode: FT8

DXpedition Callsign: 3Y0K

The DXpedition was operating FT8 in Fox/Hound mode, which is specifically designed to handle very large pile-ups.

Signals were strong enough in New Zealand during that opening, and after several calls in the queue, the decoder finally returned the message every DXer loves to see – confirmation from 3Y0K.

What is FT8 Fox/Hound Mode?

FT8 is a digital weak-signal mode developed by Joe Taylor, Steve Franke, and Bill Somerville for the WSJTX suite.

For large DXpeditions, a special mode called Fox/Hound is used.



How it works

Fox:

The DXpedition station (in this case 3Y0K) acts as the Fox.

Hounds:

All the stations calling the DXpedition are Hounds.

Key features include:

The Fox can respond to multiple stations simultaneously.

Hounds transmit slightly above the Fox frequency.

The Fox manages the pile-up digitally, calling stations one by one.

This system dramatically increases the number of contacts a DXpedition can make per hour compared with traditional modes.

For DXers, it means carefully configuring software and ensuring Hound mode is enabled before calling.

A Great Week for DX

Working Bouvet Island was definitely the highlight, but it capped off a particularly good week on the bands. During the same period I also logged stations from:

Kenya

Anguilla

Palau

Greenland

These contacts have now brought my total worked DXCC entities to 174 countries.

As many DXers know, every new entity becomes harder to find as the total climbs higher, which makes contacts like Bouvet even more satisfying.

Why DXpeditions Matter

DXpeditions like 3Y0K represent the spirit of amateur radio at its best:

International teamwork

Technical skill and planning

Operating under extreme conditions

Providing rare contacts to the global amateur community

For those of us on the receiving end of the signal, it's a reminder of how remarkable the hobby is – a small station in New Zealand can exchange signals with a temporary camp on one of the most isolated islands on Earth.

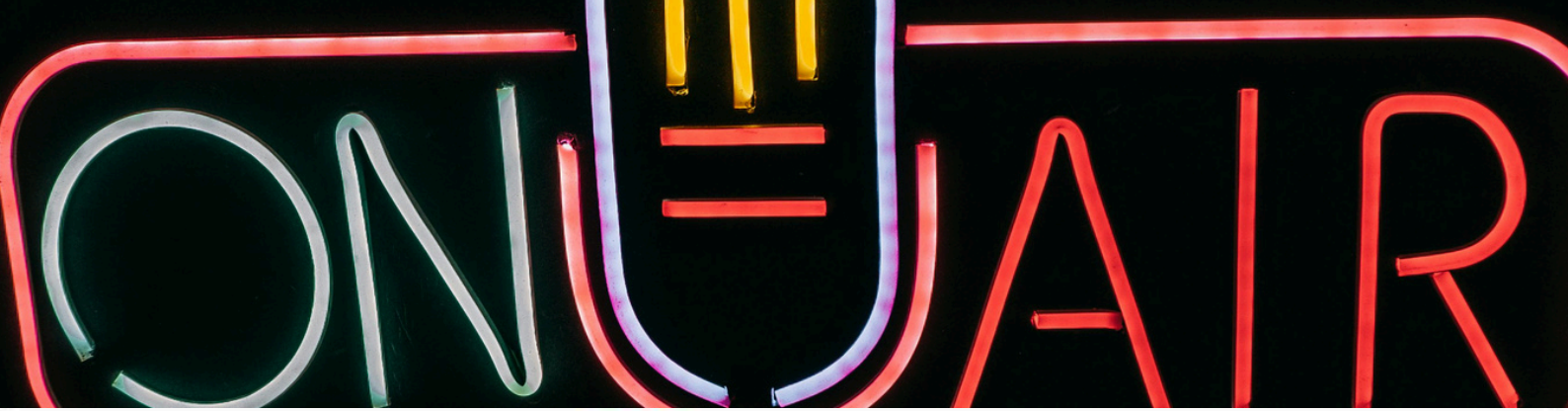
Final Thoughts

The contact with 3Y0K will certainly remain one of the highlights of my time in amateur radio. Logging Bouvet Island is a milestone for many DXers, and I feel fortunate to have caught the opening on 20 metres and completed the FT8 exchange.

With 174 DXCC entities now worked, the chase continues.

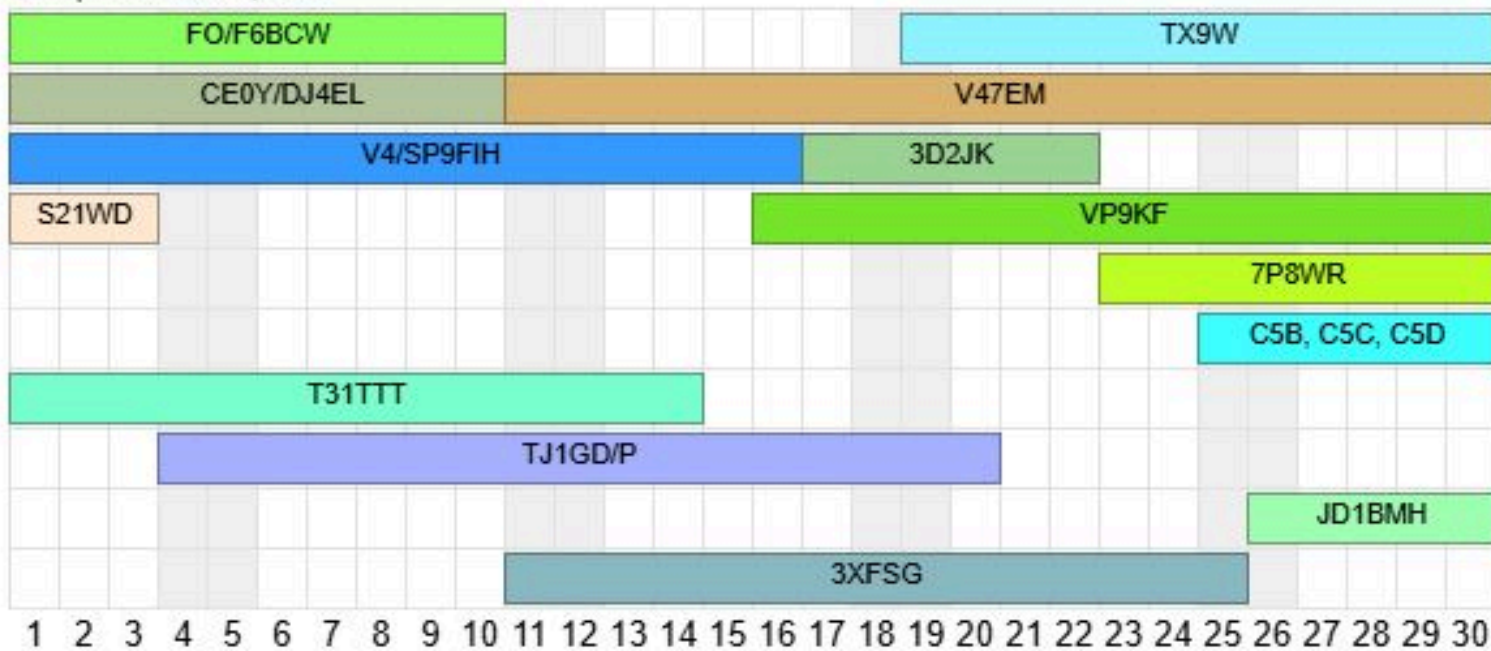
And as always in DXing — you never quite know what the next band opening might bring.

Daniel Erickson ZL4DE



DX WORLD.net
FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE

Last update: March 29, 2026



Edited by MM0NDX

APRIL

© IK8LOV Max Laconca

CE0Y/DJ4EL – EASTER ISLAND



Markus CE0Y/DJ4EL is now QRV from Easter Island since 1000z today. He is located near the airport and is focusing on 12 and 17m so far. Also many thanks to Markus for sending these excellent pictures for DX-World readers.



Courtesy of DXworld.net



CEØY/DJ4EL

Solo DXpedition 28. March - 11. April 2026

SA-001, Easter Isl.

Grid: DG52gu
ITU Zone: 63
CQ Zone: 12



Please excuse the confusion regarding callsign. Although we were assigned the call 3G0YE, we will not be using it for various reasons. Instead, I will be conducting a solo DXpedition (holiday-style) with the callsign CEØY/DJ4EL.



Amateur Radio - a 21st Century hobby

Start your journey to become an amateur radio operator by following the step below

The St George Amateur Radio Society (based in southern Sydney) will be holding an amateur radio training and assessment weekend, Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April 2026.

This is an opportunity for those interested to obtain the Foundation "entry level" amateur radio qualification and callsign. Further information and enrolment form can be found on our dedicated website www.ar.sgars.org

Home

Amateur Radio - Training & Assessment - Information Session

Amateur radio provides a hands-on way to learn about electronics, and telecommunications, excellent way to develop technical skills in a practical and enjoyable environment. Amateur radio also offers the opportunity to design and build radio equipment, experiment with communication modes, great way to explore radio science and improve problem-solving skills.

Your pathway into Amateur Radio commences with the Foundation entry level qualification. Want to know more, come along to a free amateur radio information session, including self study and upcoming training and assessment weekend.

Members of our education team will be available from 6.00 pm on Wednesday evening, 1st April 2026, in the Function Room (1st floor) at the Mortdale RSL Club, 25 Macquarie Place, Mortdale NSW, Sydney

Introduction to Amateur Radio in Australia

"Amateur Radio in Australia: Connecting Communities, One Frequency at a Time"

In a world dominated by smartphones, streaming services, and satellite internet, it might surprise some to learn that amateur radio—also known as "ham radio"—is not only alive and well in Australia, but thriving. From the outback to the city, thousands of licensed amateur operators are tuning in, reaching out, and keeping the spirit of two-way radio communication alive.

But amateur radio is much more than a nostalgic hobby. It's a technically rewarding pursuit that fosters community, encourages lifelong learning, and plays a vital role in emergency communications when conventional systems fail. Whether you're chatting with a fellow operator across town, decoding digital signals from across the world, or bouncing messages off the moon, amateur radio offers a unique blend of tradition and innovation.

In this website, we'll explore the fascinating world of amateur radio in Australia — how it works, who's involved, how to get started, and why it continues to attract a passionate and diverse community across the country, even in an age of high-tech alternatives.

To help you begin your journey, we've provided clear and up-to-date information to guide you through each step of the process — from understanding the basics to obtaining your qualification and making your first on-air contact. You can use the menu above or click on the links below.

[Click on the above and follow the link](#)

My journey into Amateur radio was short, sharp and unexpected!



My name is Linda and my call sign is ZL3GWX, this is my brief experience as a HAM.

Our neighbour, Brian (ZL4WX) has been a HAM for years and he had been speaking to my husband about getting his license and that next HamCram was in a couple of weeks. Hubby (Mike - ZL3GMT) did some research and sure enough it was in 10 days!!! OMG – I had no clue about electronics, frequencies, antenna - other than you turn on a radio and sound comes out!! What had I just said Yes to?

HamCram came and I learnt about a whole new world out there on the airwaves. I am not too proud to admit that I didn't pass the exam the first time only missing by 3 questions. I studied a bit more and resat the exam in January 2025 and I passed. Phew!

Now about that radio stuff – I learnt there was a Womens Net (YL Net Monday Night 7.30 on New Zealand National System) and POTA (Parks on the Air), SOTA (Summits on the Air) – all acronyms that were foreign, that an aerial is actually called an antenna, a net is a group of people talking, not just for fishing, and you can have a list net or anyone who calls in net!

Frequency is not how many times someone texts you, but how you tune your radio to hear someone and an SDR is a great way to see what is happening on the bands and see who's out there in the world of Radio and it does not mean "silly damn radio". Then there is Morse – Christmas holidays before my exam saw me reading a book call The Enigma which is all about Bleachly House and the cryptographers. Morse fascinates me so that is my next mission – learning Morse – some of you may say why – I'm curious and why not!

I am the coordinator of the Radiotek2 workshop and a member of Branch 05 Christchurch and I am also a member of Branch 68 Rangiora North Canterbury. Radiotek2 is for people who are not hams coming in to learn more about radio. They build an small FM digital radio receiver for their own emergency kit. It is another way I am learning more about radio.

It is cool talking to people around the country and world. I have made contacts around New Zealand so far and I think a competition is in my future – I am curious about how that works, I am yet to do an all nighter talking overseas but it will come.

I am at the very beginning of my HAM journey and it has been fun so far, I have met some really cool people.

This is ZL3GWX signing off - 73's Everyone.

Redfest 2026

Digital Communications

Redfest 2026 is set to be an exciting event, kicking off on April 11th at 9 a.m. at **Deception Bay North State School in Queensland, Australia**. Located at 33-49 Old Bay Rd, Deception Bay, this vibrant festival will feature a wide array of new and second-hand items for sale, catering to all interests and budgets.

Enthusiasts will also have the opportunity to attend tech talks, gaining insights into the latest innovations and trends. A highlight of this year's event is the participation of **The Ham Shack**, an esteemed international commercial seller from New Zealand, marking their first appearance at Redfest.

There will be Tech Talks throughout the day on different subjects in the Digital Communications.

Attendees can try their luck in the major raffle, with an impressive Icom 7300 Mk2 up for grabs. To stay informed on event details and updates leading up to Redfest 2026, visit redfest.org.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to explore, learn, and connect with fellow enthusiasts!

ICOM



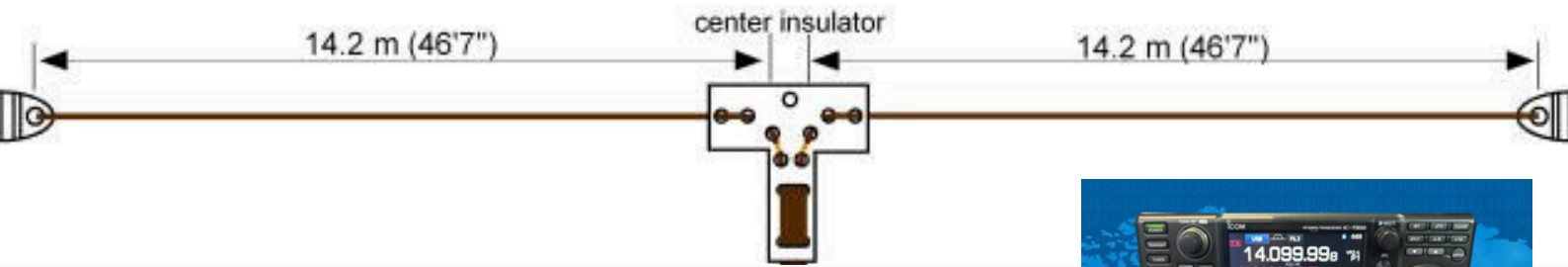
WIN

WIN



Visit redfest.org for more information

THE HAM SHACK



COMPETITION CALENDAR



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

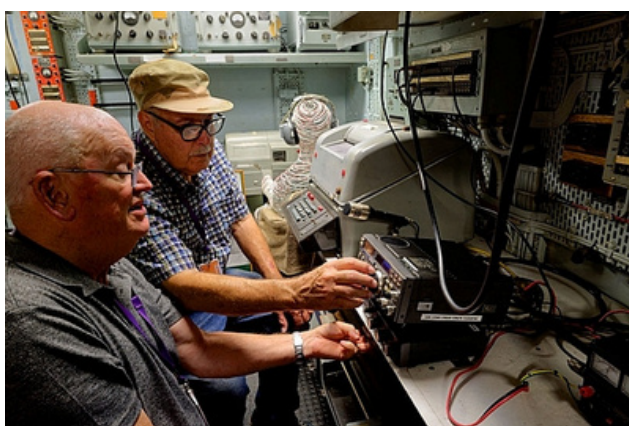
	Mar 29 Sunday	Mar 30 Monday	Mar 31 Tuesday	Apr 1 Wednesday	Apr 2 Thursday	Apr 3 Friday	Apr 4 Saturday	Apr 5 Sunday
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	■							
Africa All Mode International DX Contest	■							
K1USN Slow Speed Test		■						
QCX Challenge		■						
ICWC Medium Speed Test		■						
OK1WC Memorial (MWC)		■						
QCX Challenge		■						
ICWC Medium Speed Test		■						
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest			■					
QCX Challenge			■					
ICWC Medium Speed Test			■					
QRP Fox Hunt				■				
Phone Weekly Test				■				
A1Club AWT				■				
CWops Test (CWT)				■				
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest				■				
Mini-Test 40				■				
Mini-Test 80				■				
CWops Test (CWT)				■				
UKEICC 80m Contest				■				
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA					■			
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest					■			
CWops Test (CWT)					■			
CWops Test (CWT)					■			
Maundy Thursday Contest					■	■		
SARL 80m QSO Party					■	■		
NRAU 10m Activity Contest					■	■		
SKCC Sprint Europe					■	■		
QRP Fox Hunt						■		
NCCC FT4 Sprint						■		
Weekly RTTY Test						■		
NCCC Sprint						■		
K1USN Slow Speed Test							■	
YBDXPI SSB Contest							■	■
PODXS 070 New Member Jamboree							■	■
EA RTTY Contest							■	■
Louisiana QSO Party							■	■
Mississippi QSO Party							■	■



Riding the (Radio) Waves Aboard HMAS Vampire, Sydney Carmel VK2NO

HMAS Vampire Moored at the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM), Darling Harbor, Sydney

HMAS Vampire's radio room is back on-air under the callsign VK2VMP, thanks to a small group of dedicated Sydney amateur radio operators, led by Colin, VK2JCC. The Vampire is the last of the big gun destroyers. The partnership between the amateur radio operators and the Museum provides an exceptional opportunity for visitors to see the ship and experience the world of amateur radio (ANMM www.sea.museum).



Enjoying a distant contact on 40m: Team Lead Colin VK2JCC and Alex VK2PRC on the air from the Vampire's radio room. (Karin Gottschalk Photography)

About HMAS Vampire and radio communications

Australia's largest museum vessel, HMAS Vampire is the last of the RAN's big gun ships, a Daring Class destroyer. It served in the Royal Australian Navy from 1959 to 1986. The Vampire never engaged in conflict, even while escorting troops to Vietnam in the 1960s. After a 1980 refit, it served as a Navy training ship.

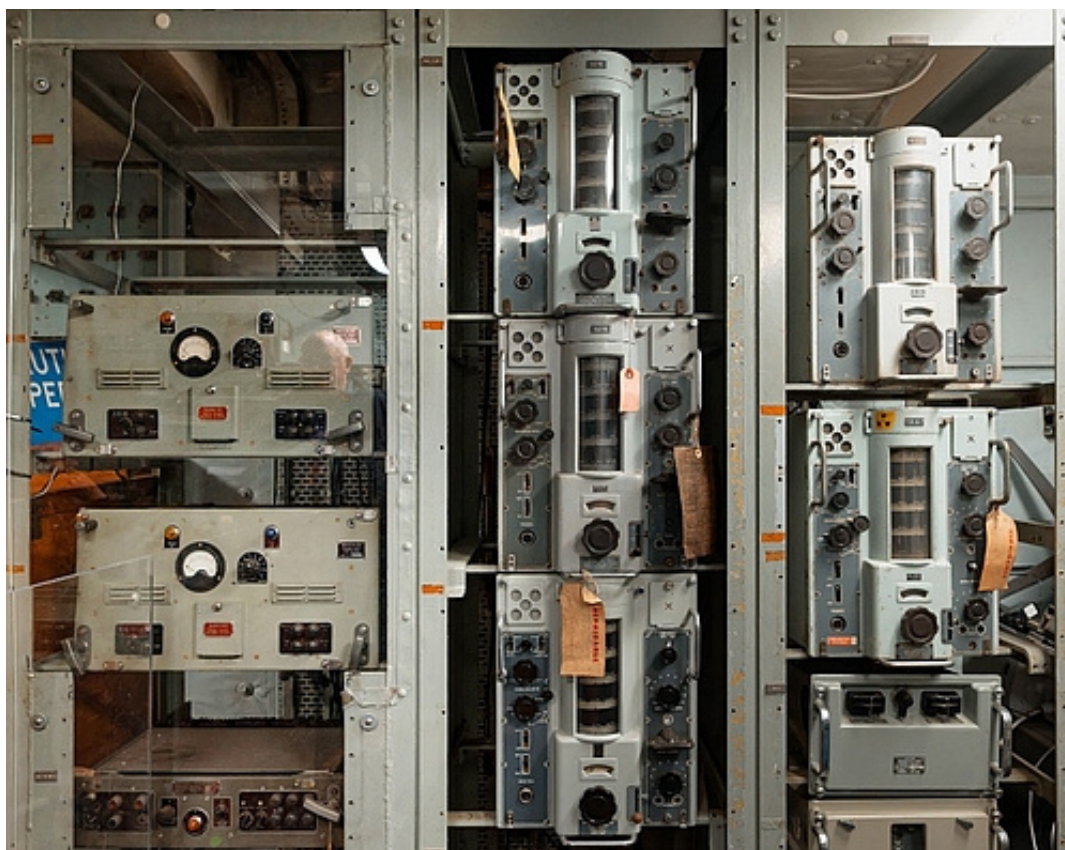
At the ANMM, there are retired naval personnel to show visitors around and answer questions during opening hours. The Museum says it's a great place to learn about Australia's history on the water.

During active service, satellite receivers and teletype equipment was mainly used, where coded signals would be received and decoded using a modularized decoder. Decoded punch tape was then provided to the officers and usually consisted of new coordinates and sometimes other confidential information.



Teletype equipment and receivers used during active service.

The team has since restored a couple of the original receivers; a B40 and R1051 receiver; many are stacked in the radio room for display, among teletypes, VHF receivers, and power control units.



Some receivers were donated to Vampire which became the 'home for fallen navy radios', following the demise of other ships that were decommissioned. HMAS Vampire has one of the largest collections in Australia of B40 and other naval radios.



A R1051 naval receiver, restored to working order. The chassis can be opened at the front where the radio slides out from the case. It consists of removable boards for easy service.

How it all 'restarted'...

Originally, a group of retired radio hams including ex-servicemen operated the lunchtime RAN Net on HMAS Vampire from the 1990s – 2000s. The net ran on Saturdays but as the operators were of advanced age, operations eventually declined. They had used the original vertical antennas installed on the ship.

Late in 2022, several licensed amateur radio operators were invited by the Australian National Maritime Museum for a special event aboard HMAS Vampire in Darling Harbor, Sydney. Led by Colin Christie VK2JCC, they set up a temporary radio station and made HF contacts around the world, in much the same manner as the Vampire crew would have done during active service. It was a very popular event, with plenty of interest from, and engagement with, the visiting public. Following the success of that special event, Colin approached the Museum to see if a permanent amateur radio station could be set up in the original communications room aboard the Vampire, and be run by a dedicated group of ANMM radio volunteers. The Museum Board agreed that this would be a marvelous opportunity, so plans for a new amateur radio station were made and in early 2023.

The back story

The group discovered the original shipboard antennas had corroded and cabling was in poor condition. The group decided, with permission from the Museum, to add new antennas suitable for amateur bands by adding dedicated resonant 40-meter and 20-meter end-fed verticals, plus an off-center fed dipole (OCF) using the specifications from the VK2CAR 'Clothesline wire multi-band antenna' (Amateur Radio magazine, Issue 3, 2022, p8). Transmission line cabling was the main issue due to deterioration; replacements were arranged via many unique ways such as feeding RG8 coax through a voice pipe!

Each operator was required to join the Museum as a volunteer. This was a relatively easy procedure that only took some time due to background checks. Given the "All Clear" to proceed, Colin and the team began preparations to set up the station.

Some Kenwood amateur transceivers were found left on a dusty shelf; the team managed to get a TS-530S up and running again. This proved invaluable while waiting to set up the other radios. Richard VK2SKY donated a Yaesu HF radio so we could run two bands ready to go. Finally, an Icom IC-7300 was donated by the Museum to allow further modes such as SSTV and FT8.

Now, the Vampire communications room is fully operational under the callsign VK2VMP and has made many contacts across over 80 countries.



QSL card designed by Carmel VK2NO. See if you can spot the hidden bat; the image pays homage to a number of hidden bats painted on various bulkheads around the ship.

On the air

Vampire frequencies generally used are around 7150 kHz phone and 7050 kHz CW (a 1950s naval CW key is used), plus around 14.200 MHz, and mostly 10, 15, and 17 meters on FT8. Depending on the solar cycle, a quick check often results in good contacts on other bands when the popular bands are not lively.

"We have brought a variety of skills and experiences to the ANMM volunteer Captain's table," says Colin. "I have many years of experience running portable radio and antenna experimentation. Being well known across the radio community, I've been nicknamed as Professor Portable."

"Chris VK2VCG served aboard the Vampire in the 1970s in radio communications and feels very welcome to be back operating aboard the Vampire, while Alex VK2PRC has extensive experience in military radios and their restoration. Mark VK2DI is a Morse code whiz and, at 20 words a minute, can easily make contacts around the world."

"All our radio operator volunteers have extensive experience in portable operations, electronics, and antenna modelling," Colin said. "They have meticulously restored the Vampire's radio room to be fully operational and within the guidelines to meet Museum requirements."

"It is from this wonderful effort to enhance the experience of the Vampire for all visitors that has made the ship more 'hands on' than ever."

Epilogue

The Museum Ships on-the-air weekend over the first weekend in June (an annual event – www.nj2bb.org) proved challenging, yet rewarding. As this annual event ran over the weekend, to take full advantage a couple of operators stayed aboard overnight, enjoying the same 'creature comforts' sailors would have experienced when in active service, hi.

The Vampire radio room has operators nearly every weekend on a Saturday and on some weekdays. So, listen out; or come along, say hello and take part in communications with other stations around the world.



BEN BLACK ZL4AT

Glenorchy POTA Day out

I had originally planned a full weekend camping trip down in Southland, but in the end the price of fuel had the final say. So instead of heading far afield, I decided on a closer adventure - a POTA day trip to Glenorchy with the XYL and my ever-loyal, food obsessed Labrador, Toffee. As it turned out, it was one of those decisions that works out better than the original plan.

We set off early and made the 2.5-hour drive to Glenorchy, stopping first for one of those famous Fairlie Salmon & Bacon pies. Proper fuel for the operator! From there we headed down to the waterfront and found a perfect green spot by the lake to set up.

Up went the 6-metre mast, and I strung out my 40m dipole from The Ham Shack. The band was in great shape, and things got going quickly. I was running 60 watts on the FT-891, and before long I'd worked my way to 32 QSOs. A personal best, and one I was very pleased with.

With that success under the belt, we packed up and moved about 10 kilometres up the road to the iconic Dart Bridge. It was a lively scene with jet boats being pulled out of the water, but we found a nice spot nearby and wandered over to a grassy mound with a few good trees.

This time I went with the EFHW in my favourite inverted-V setup at around 9 metres. Getting the line up wasn't entirely straightforward though. On my third attempt, my trusty Coke bottle smashed on the rocks and started leaking. But I gave it one more go, and that final throw sailed perfectly over the branch. A very satisfying moment.

Once up, the antenna worked beautifully and I logged another 30 contacts. The 40m band was really playing ball, and the chasers were out in force. The EFHW also works well on 20 & 15m and if I had more time and a shady spot I would have liked to work the higher bands, but I didn't want to test my XYL's patience or my fair skin.

The final activation of the day was one I'd been saving: Hogget Island, a tiny little river island near Lake Reid. I've got a bit of a soft spot for island activations, and this one hadn't been done before.

Getting there added a bit of adventure. I had to wade across a short stretch of river, water up to my waist and feet sinking into soft mud, all while trying not to baptise my new FT-891.

Once on the island, I set up the EFHW in a sloper, tied off to a stump on the island with the other end going up to my mast back on the shore. It worked well enough and I managed 22 contacts before the XYL and Toffee came back from their walk up the river.

It was by far the best POTA day I've had this year, mostly thanks to a combination of good weather, band conditions and the excellent quality of the chasers!

We wrapped it all up with a proper feast at a Vietnamese restaurant in Queenstown.

Like all you other Potaholics out there, enough is never enough and I'm already planning my next activation day. Talk to you then!

73,
Ben
ZL4AT





As happens I came across this radio on a website, I contacted Boris LZ2JR/AC9IJ lz2jr@yahoo.com and we had a chat. These radios are individually assembled and carefully aligned to meet their high standards. There are also a lot of options, so go and have a look at the website.

<https://lz2jr.com/blog/index.php/qrp-hf-transceiver/>

Main goals of the project:

- Classic superhet design – with popular 9MHz intermediate frequency. Filter method DSB to SSB modulation
- Coverage of the 9 HAM HF bands (160m optional)
- High dynamic range receiver design including high IP3 monolithic IC in the front end and H-mode first mixer
- Fast acting IF (134kHz) AGC.
- Clickless operation – solid state GaAs PHEMT SPDT switches on RX, (bandpass filters; TX/RX) and ultra fast rectifier diodes (LPF)
- Custom multicolor FSTN LCD (Especially developed for this project)
- Custom made plastic face plate, unique and ergonomic knob controls
- Custom made crystal filters – 6,8 pole, CF=9MHz, 2.8kHz, 2.7kHz, 1kHz, 500Hz
- Double CPU circuitry control for front panel and mother board, both field programmable via implemented USB hub



- Modular construction with no “flying wires” inside the box. Transceiver is built up on a main – mother board which has two functions. First to serve as a “chassis” and second to fit all the external connectors, daughter boards, inter-connections and acts as cable harness.
- Plenty of optional modules: Audio filters, Automatic antenna tuner (ATU), Noise blanker (NB), narrow/wide band IF crystal filters.
- Linear final amplifier PA 50W with precise power adjustment especially for QRP operations. Forget noisy FANs – 25W – unlimited time!! QRO work – with max power of 50W driving should be sufficient for a kilowatt amplifier.
- Personal computer control CAT via USB
- Morse code keyer (Curtis A, CMOS B)
- Contest and DX-pedition operation conveniences

The radio starts at Euro 869 and then you can add lots of optional modules and boards

PS I did ask about selling them in New Zealand and Australia but due to the number of options and the fact that they are purpose built that was not an option.

Greg The Ham Shack

Free Entry

VK SUMMIT

2nd – 3rd May 2026
Albury, NSW

Free Entry

The largest radio exhibition of its kind in Australia.

Only persons registered can enter the VK Summit exhibition area.
Registration is free and the organisers ask you to pre-register as early as possible.

The registration button will take to TryBooking which handles VK Summit registration.
You will have 2 registration options:

- Exhibition attendance only (\$0)
- Exhibition attendance + VK Summit Dinner (\$39 + \$0.50 booking fee)

If you select the VK Summit Dinner ticket you will have the option of specifying dietary requirements.
If you are a WIA member you will also have the option to register your AGM attendance.

Largest Australian radio exhibition of its kind

Date

Saturday 2 May 2026 9:00 AM - Sunday 3 May 2026 1:00 PM (UTC+11)

Location

Commercial Club Albury
618 Dean Street, Albury NSW 2640

[LINK TO REGISTER](#)

50TH ANNUAL FIELD DAY

OXLEY REGION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB INC. 50TH ANNUAL FIELD DAY ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY THE 6TH AND 7TH OF JUNE 2026

The venue for the 2026 Field Day is the Wauchope Showground hall in High Street, Wauchope. This hall is an excellent venue and will support all the usual Field Day activities. The Field Day has been held in the Wauchope Showground for the last few years and both locals and visitors continue to be very pleased with the venue. There is plenty of on-site parking and the area is safe for the fox hunts.

The Wauchope Showground permits camping and is pet friendly. For two people an RV or caravan is \$20 per night with power and a tent is \$10 per night with power. The use of toilets and hot showers is included. You can even get a stable for your horse for \$10 per night! Contact the on-site caretaker 0475 111 074 for bookings. The web page is at <http://www.wauchopeshowsociety.com.au/camping.html>

The Field Day dinner as usual will be at 6pm at the Port Macquarie Golf Club on Saturday the 6th of June. The dinner will be held in the Seabreeze Function Room. Thank you to Gary Ryan VK2ZKT of Radio Supply of Bellingen for kindly sponsoring the hire of the function room for the Field Day Dinner. As usual, please place your orders at the Restaurant. The Golf Club offers an extensive dinner menu to cater for all tastes at club prices.

There will be all the usual displays and activities at the Field Day. Entry is a modest \$10 which covers admission on both days. The barbeque will work overtime with bacon and egg sandwiches for breakfast both days and sausages and steak for lunch both days. Tea and coffee and biscuits will be free all day for those who have registered. Soft drinks and bottled water will be available for purchase.

We are looking forward to a particularly enjoyable Field Day. A lot of effort is going into making the 50th annual Field Day a milestone to remember.

The ORARC website is at <https://www.orarc.org/>

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.
PO Box 712
Port Macquarie NSW 2444



PHIL ZL3PAE MY LIFE WITH RADIO!

For me, radio has never just been about technology — it's always been about connection when it matters most.

It probably started long before I realised it, playing around with walkie talkies as a kid — seeing how far I could push them, figuring out how to get a signal through, and just enjoying that simple idea of talking to someone, somewhere else. These days, the radios are a bit more powerful... and the distances a lot greater — but the core idea hasn't changed.

That early interest eventually turned into something more serious through my involvement with Land Search and Rescue New Zealand, where I've spent close to 10 years. Out in the bush, beyond cellphone coverage, communication isn't a convenience — it's critical.



LANDSAR SEARCH AND RESCUE CALL OUT



WANDER SEARCH – TRACKING TRAINING



That carried through into my time volunteering with Hato Hone St John, where clear, reliable communication plays a key role in high-pressure situations.

Even earlier, during my years with the State Emergency Service in Australia — including involvement in operations connected to the search for Daniel Morcombe — I saw firsthand how vital good communication systems really are during major incidents.



SEARCH AND RESCUE FORENSIC CALL OUT WITH THE STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES

Getting my amateur radio licence felt like the natural next step — a way to cement those skills and take things further. It's opened the door to being part of AREC (Amateur Radio Emergency Communications), tying directly into both disaster preparedness and search and rescue. I have had my Licence coming up on two years, very late to the game but it has been a great experience and the Ham Cram at branch 05 made the process very easy, even for an older person like myself.

A big part of that journey has been learning from people already deeply involved in the space. A huge shout out to Greg ZL1GUD from The Ham Shack, whose work around community preparedness and disaster radio nets has had a big influence on me.

Through that, I've also gotten into Parks on the Air (POTA) activations — and honestly, it's one of the best ways to build real-world capability. Operating off-grid, running radios on emergency power, setting up in the field — it's hands-on experience that directly translates into disaster readiness.

On the gear side, I've built up a setup that reflects that focus on preparedness. I run a Ham Shack linked dipole antenna alongside a Xiegu G90 20-watt HF radio and a Xiegu X6100, giving me solid HF capability both at home and in the field. In the vehicle, I've got three Alinco radios covering UHF/VHF, and I also use a DMR handheld — which means I can communicate not just locally, but globally with other operators when needed.



VEHICLE BASED GO BAG FOR THE RADIOS AND PORTABLE POWER



70 WATTS OF PURE POWER – ALINCO DR-138 MK II

For me, this isn't about collecting gear — it's about building capability.

It's about developing the skills, the systems, and the confidence to be able to step in and support my community if a disaster strikes. Whether that's maintaining communications when networks are down, supporting response teams, or simply being another link in the chain when it matters most.

Amateur radio isn't just a hobby. It's a practical, proven way to stay connected when everything else fails — and a way to turn preparation into real-world service.

Because when everything else goes quiet... radio still works.



OUT POTA'ING WITH ZL1GUD – TESTING SKILLS AND HAVING FUN



March 13, 2026
 Joe Pater W8GEX

CONTENT PROVIDED BY:
 JOHN
 ZL2BH

TX9W Marquesas: April 19 – 30.

A team of six operators, four operators from the Oklahoma DX Assn (OKDXA), K5WE, W5CCP, N5TEA, K4VBM, one from New Mexico WD5COV and one from France F6BCW. They also will be using the USA new 60m FT8 freq of 5.371.5.

Reported by Dave WD5COV
 60 Meters - 5 MHz

We are reminded starting February 13, the FCC restricted U.S. amateur radio stations from operating at 100 watts on 5.357 MHz, limiting power to just 9.5 watts on that frequency. To continue operating at 100 watts, many U.S. DXers will move their FT8 activity to a new frequency: 5.371.5 MHz, effective the same date.

Operators are encouraged to inform friends, club members, and relevant news outlets about this change to ensure a smooth transition. While many other countries will continue using the original frequency, it is important to notify anyone planning DXpeditions of the U.S. shift to 5.371.5 MHz.

The DX Mentor Podcast
 By Bill Salyers

The DX Mentor podcast is directed towards any amateur radio operator (Ham) or Short Wave Listener (SWL) who has an interest in listening to or communicating with stations that are not in your country, or DX. There have already been many episodes with more in the future, and I think you'll find them quite interesting.

NZ Daylight Saving Time	GMT (always Static)
12am	11am yesterday
1am	12pm yesterday
2am	1pm yesterday
3am	2pm yesterday
4am	3pm yesterday
5am	4pm yesterday
6am	5pm yesterday
7am	6pm yesterday
8am	7pm yesterday
9am	8pm yesterday
10am	9pm yesterday
11am	10pm yesterday
12am Midday	11pm yesterday
1pm (Rollover)	12am same day (Rollover)
2pm	1am same day
3pm	2am same day
4pm	3am same day
5pm	4am same day
6pm	5am same day
7pm	6am same day
8pm	7am same day
9pm	8am same day
10pm	9am same day
11pm	10am same day
12pm	11am same day
Rev 1.2 ZL2BH	

GMT/NZDT/NZST CHARTS

I have prepared a simple chart to help Newbies and not so Newbies to quickly get their head around the NZDT/NZST/GMT requirement for Pota Logging.

I did this to help a friend who had trouble getting his head around the issue.

It maybe that similar charts have been produced by others? If you consider the info of value then you are free to publish it in your mag.

Regards
 John
 ZL2BH

Editor
 The document was in XL which I cannot send links to but if you email me I will email them to you.



THE LADY BEHIND THE KEY

MORSE CODE - STORIES CARYN KD2GUT

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

American students of broadcast history will readily tag the decade between the '30s and '40s as the Golden Age of Radio – but for me, the Golden Age is now. My ham radio life is shaped by ragchews, nets, DX hunting, CW challenges, Parks on the Air and special event stations. Just for starters.

It's a Golden Age but it has roots in the Stone Age – my childhood. Watching my older brother and his ham radio pals circle the globe from New York via some invisible force emanating from the rooftop antenna made me want in on that secret society. I coveted a radio dial that would glow brightly for me too. I prepared for the Novice Class exam to get US entry-level privileges that, at the time, required basic electronics theory and slow CW.

I never got there – not for quite a while. My arrival as a licensed ham came via Long Path – or in my case, bridle path: My road to the FCC Novice exam as a teen was detoured by horse fever, the kind that infects most girls of a certain age and leaves enduring side effects. Radio remained a vague and distant goal and had changed: My university studies took on a strong broadcast focus and my earliest employment involved writing and producing content for a small AM/FM radio station. Then I traded radio for newspaper work with radio left on the cutting-room floor.

Then, in 2012, I was delivered back into the welcoming arms of RF by superstorm Sandy – a hurricane in which several other powerful storms converged, tearing up the US East Coast. It plunged most of us into a dank, dark and painfully disconnected misery.

It was the force of that storm – and the communication vacuum that followed - that swept me swiftly back to the amateur radio I remembered: Six months later, I received my Technician callsign, then upgraded to HF privileges. Two or three years later, a CW key found a comfortable spot alongside the mic in my shack. Both serve me well, no matter what activity I am involved in at the time. As for horses, well, 11 years ago I got one of those too. When I'm not using Morse Code I'm enjoying Horse Code. Meanwhile, try to catch me calling "CQ POTA" – or maybe I'll be chasing some you Down Under. You can bet that, somewhere, my 12-year-old self is smiling.

Caryn
KD2GUT



Thank you for contributing regularly Caryn

Greg
for NZ & OZ Amateur Radio Magazine



More Stock has Arrived

We have mobile and handheld radios, DMR Radios and power supplies



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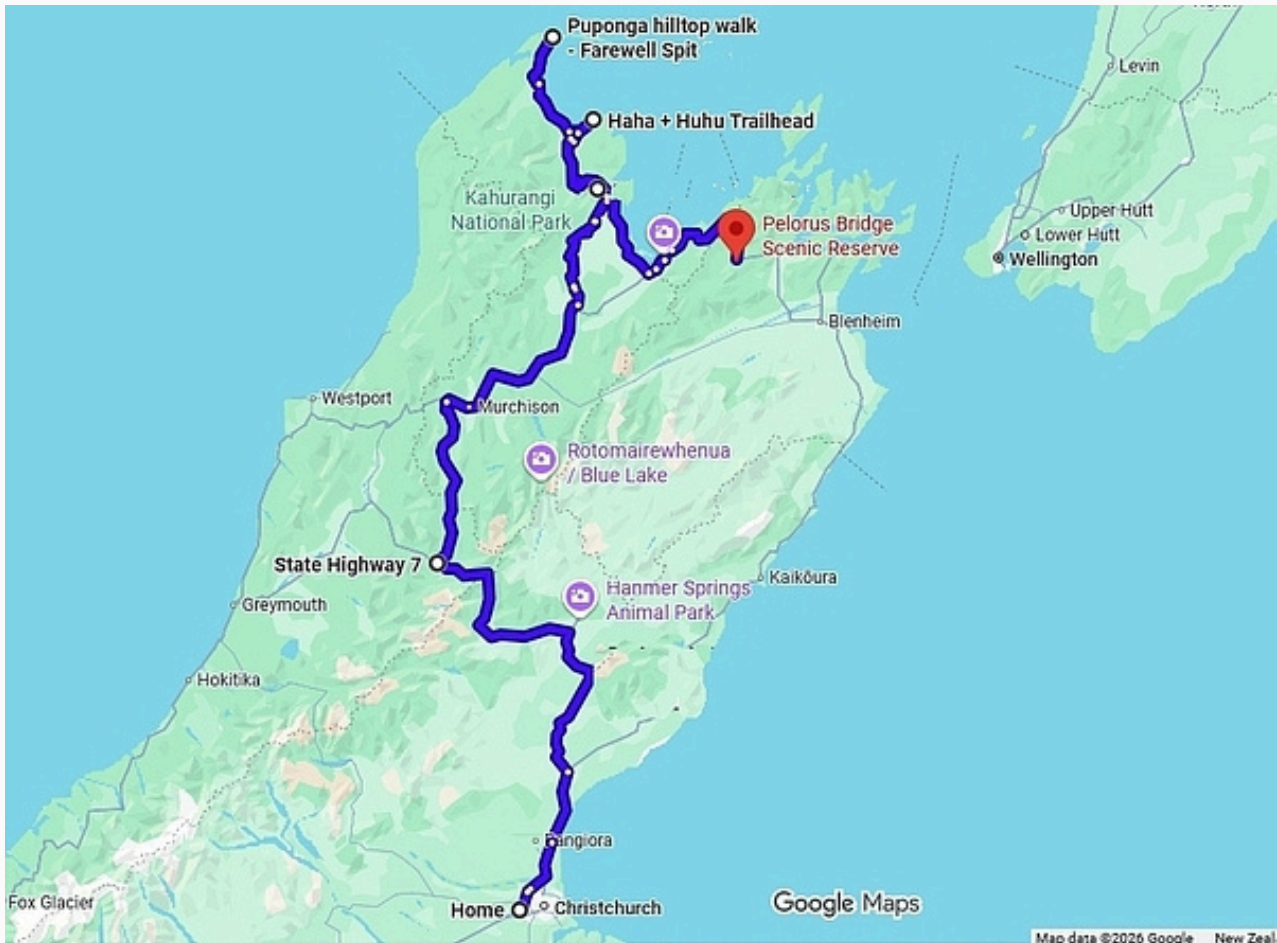
sales@thehamshack.co.nz

thehamshack.co.nz



RICK ZL3RIK

A POTA rove from Springs Junction through to Farewell Spit & finishing at Pelorus Bridge, in the South Island of New Zealand



This was not my first POTA rove in the South Island of New Zealand and all but two of the parks I did activate were ones I had already chased, so it was mainly a case of following in the footsteps of those who had gone before me. Where possible, I took the time to research any historical significance of my surroundings.

The rig I mainly use is an Elecraft KX2 connected through an Elecraft KXPA 100 watt amp but usually running at at about 60 to 80 watts pep. The advantages I like about the KX2 is that it's light, very portable, easy to set up, has an excellent atu, the ability to programme in the field of the auto cq & its very good filtering capability. I do have a back up rig which is a Yaesu FT-897 which is my preferred rig if running FT8.

My antenna of choice is an inverted V at about 6m high.

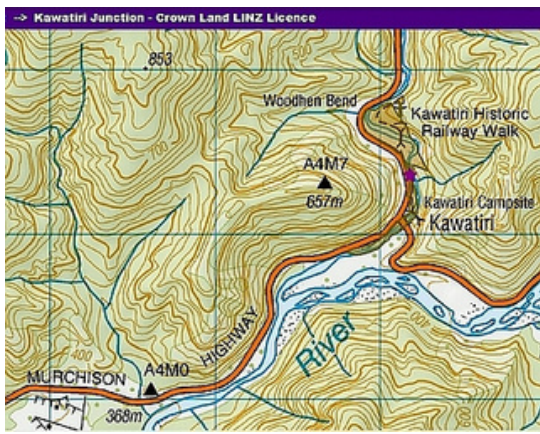
Saturday 21st February

My first port of call was the Rahu Scenic Reserve, NZ-0531, less than 2 km from Springs Junction, which is approx 3 hours drive northwest of Christchurch. This reserve is an international POTA park & as such, an activator needs 10 contacts to validate the activation and today, the propagation gods were smiling as I quickly accumulated the required numbers.

A 45 minute drive later is the seemingly insignificant Shenandoah Scenic Reserve, ZLP/TM-0149

This reserve is a 1,319-hectare conservation area in New Zealand's Maruia Valley, South Island, known for its remote, rugged forest habitat near the Shenandoah Highway. Adjoining Victoria Forest Park, it features no formal tracks or facilities and provides the habitat for rare species like long-tailed bats and native fish. Primarily accessed via the Shenandoah Highway, though the area itself has no developed tracks or facilities. Neither of these two parks had ever been activated before which was probably the reason why I was quickly running a pile up.

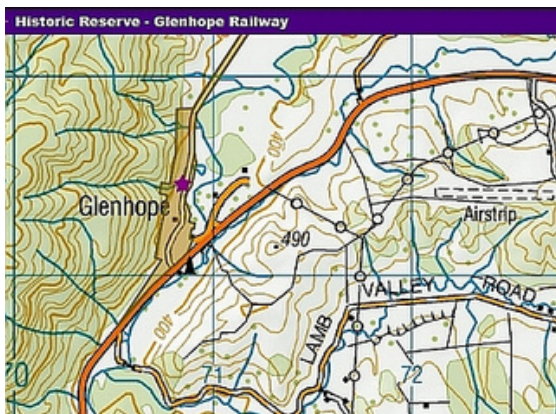
I stayed overnight in Murchison before continuing my journey to Takaha. Murchison is known as the 'whitewater capital' of the country, because there are rivers everywhere – the Gowan, Mangles, Matiri, Glenroy, Matakitaki, Maruia and the mighty Buller. For anybody into canoeing or kayaking, it's a dream come true with the region offering some of the best all-grades options in New Zealand.



Sunday 22nd

Today I started at Kawatiri Junction, ZLP/TM-0152 approx 30 minutes north of the Murchison township. It is here that you'll find the Kawatiri Historic Railway Walk located at the intersection of SH6 and SH63. The walk starts from a carpark with information panels detailing the rich history of the area. After 200 metres the track crosses an old rail bridge before passing through a train tunnel built in 1923. A torch is helpful but not essential. The walk itself takes about 30 minutes.

I then moved on up to ZLP/TM-0152, the site of the former Glenhope Railway Station.



This railway station was built in 1912 and was for many years the terminus of the Nelson railway (1876-1955). It has historical significance as a rare, in-situ survivor of the Nelson railway and is significant within the wider context of New Zealand's transport history, particularly the closure of railways in the 20th century and associated protest movements. The current owner has restored it to its former glory.

Moving on up through the hop growing town of Tapawera which is a gateway to the Kahurangi National Park, one of our many easily accessible POTA parks, I travelled through the Motueka Valley & into Motueka town itself for lunch. Shortly after leaving Motueka I started the steady climb up Takaka Hill but not before diverting to ZLP/TM-0117. WF Moss Scenic Reserve, a small insignificant reserve that used to have a campground which is now closed. I then returned & continued up the steep Takaka Hill road & after passing the summit I was able to pull in well off the road to activate the Takaka Hill Scenic Reserve, ZLP/TM-0038.

I found my pre-booked accommodation just outside of Takaka where I was to be domiciled for the next couple of days as I explored the local parks around the nearby region and the Separation Point Lighthouse, ZLB/078. Although I couldn't actually see the lighthouse, the activation zone extends for a distance of 10 km. This overcame the necessity of a 4 hour return walk to the lighthouse itself.

Tuesday 24th

This was the day I took the opportunity to travel to the top of the South Island to activate Puponga Farm Park, NZ-0126 & Farewell Spit (Onetahua) which is New Zealand's longest natural sandspit, stretching 35 km from the South Island's northern tip of Puponga.



As a strictly protected wetland and bird sanctuary, it hosts over 90 species, including migratory birds and a gannet colony. Public access is limited to the first 4 km, with guided tours required to reach the historic 1869 lighthouse. Unfortunately I was unable to gain vehicle access to the spit itself so that part of the activation had to be flagged. So near & yet so far!! It is closed to casual visitors, and public access to the lighthouse site is restricted to people on an organised tour.



The public are not permitted to climb the lighthouse structure. It was just as I was packing up that I vaguely recognised a person walking towards me. It was Sam, ZL2WE who was holidaying in the South Island.



Sam did his first ever activation with me when I was travelling around the North Island some two or three years ago. Of course time has passed & Sam can be quite often heard activating parks, lakes & lighthouses around the central North Island. He has even got his father out & they quite often do an activation together.

Wednesday 25th

My travels today took me back across the Takaha Hill, first of all to the Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve, ZLP/TM-0055.



A colony of approximately 170 pairs of little blue penguins (kororā) inhabits the bays around Kaiteriteri, particularly nesting in burrows and rock crevices around Little Kaiteriteri. These small, 25cm tall penguins are active during their breeding season from July to December while moulting occurs between December and March. There is an observation etiquette for the curious & is strictly enforced.

Another half hour drive took me to my final two activations of the day near Motueka, ZLP/TM-0774 & ZLP/TM-0776. I then continued to the city of Nelson. Nelson has a monument on Botanical Hill, near the centre of the city. The walk to this is called the "Centre of New Zealand walk". At the start of this walk on Milton Street is a local park called the Recreation Reserve Botanics Sportsfield, ZLP/TM-0157. It was from here I did my one & only evening activation & I had the pleasure of Jim, ZL2BHF & Norm, ZL4NG joining me.



Propagation was well down, almost non-existent & we agreed that we had more laughs than contacts on this occasion. I'm a keen New Zealand Rugby fan, & I was also able to watch one of the top provincial NZ rugby teams practicing for the upcoming season as they went through their skills.

Friday 27th

This was my last day of this POTA rove & I'd picked to finish it at the Pelorus Bridge Scenic Reserve, NZ-0703. Halfway between Blenheim and Nelson, Pelorus Bridge is a scenic locality and DOC-managed reserve in Marlborough, famous for its crystal-clear river & native forest. Situated on State Highway 6, it offers popular activities like camping & kayaking & visitors have the opportunity to relax and enjoy forest and river scenery, in one of the last stands of river flat forest in Marlborough. It is a great starting point for easy walks through forest glades. For something a little more adventurous, choose the track that leads to a waterfall and rock pool, or walk up along a ridge to a 417 metre peak. You'll also find a little bit of Middle-earth magic in this area. Peter Jackson chose Pelorus Bridge as a filming location for scenes from *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*. Here, the dwarves were filmed floating in barrels down the river - an experience that Stephen Hunter, who played dwarf Bombur, called 'his favourite day on set'.

This then completed this particular seven day rove. As you can see, New Zealand is a great place for doing POTA. Permission is not needed for practically all of our parks whether they be international or local. Access is usually quite easy and I've never found a Park Ranger that hasn't been helpful in answering any questions about accessibility etc.

Throughout all my roves, whether they be for parks, lighthouses or NZ lakes, I use the very helpful web site As a strictly protected wetland and bird sanctuary, it hosts over 90 species, including migratory birds and a gannet colony. Public access is limited to the first 4 km, with guided tours required to reach the historic 1869 lighthouse. Unfortunately I was unable to gain vehicle access to the spit itself so that part of the activation had to be flagged. So near & yet so far!!! It is closed to casual visitors, and public access to the lighthouse site is restricted to people on an organised tour. This is almost a bible to New Zealand activators in that it shows not only where; but also the activation zones for the various identities. NZART has an award system, (application needed for both activators & chasers) in which the successful applicants can get emailed a pdf of their certificate/s.

For the parks which begin their code with ZLP/XX-nnnn, only four contacts are needed as opposed to the international parks (NZ-nnnn) where ten contacts are needed to make the activation successful.



New Zealand has a reciprocal licence format for most countries

- Persons visiting New Zealand who hold a current amateur certificate of competency, authorisation or license issued by another administration, may operate an amateur station in New Zealand for a period not exceeding 90 days, provided the certificate, authorisation or license meets the requirements of CEPT T/R 61-01 or CEPT T/R 61-02 and is produced at the request of the chief executive.

The visiting overseas operator must use the national callsign allocated by the other administration to the operator, in conjunction with the prefix or suffix "ZL"

- Under this provision, no application needs to be made. You must have your home licence with you and it must be current for the time of your visit
- No fee is charged (it's FREE!)

Most international flights arrive in either Auckland or Christchurch.

Here in NZ we don't have snakes, tigers or bears & the only poisonous spider we have is more painful than fatal. What we can offer is fantastic mountain scenery with huge waterfalls cascading down from the mountains, green bush with usually well maintained trails, the longer ones of which have overnight huts situated at strategic points on the way. For the less adventurous there are nearly 1,000 freshwater lakes that are begging to be activated, (4 contacts needed) but if you are completely tired of activating, there is also licensed fly fishing in both the lakes & fresh water rivers.

Epilogue:

Although sometimes the bands weren't always behaving it was great to meet up again with fellow hams from around the country & it goes to prove that you can activate & have fun at the same time. I only had one day of inclement weather but that just adds to the excitement of POTA.

Total activations 18
Contacts 340

Rick
ZL3RIK



**KEN DUFFY
ZL4KD**

My Adventure in Radio

Ken Duffy ZI4KD previously ZI4TDZ

I first got fascinated by radio from a friend of the family now SK who was a licenced ham operator back in around 1970-71.

I then got distracted by shortwave radio as I could explore that with out a licence as 11- 12 year old.

I first studied for my licence and had my first attempt at the exam in 1977 as a 14 year old along with my step father, he passed and became ZL4GB and was active until he became a silent key around 1992.

Those days you had to be able to draw circuit diagrams etc for the exam, I missed the mark by 2%.

I stored the experience away and was involved with CB for and Commercial radio at work.

A change in career and rule changes, I decided to have a serious go at the exam again in 1988 and passed when you only got two chances a year to sit the exam. I passed and became ZL4TDZ as I didn't do the morse

I became active in the Southland Branch Radio Club branch 37 and involved with field days and AREC activites, SSTV and display days etc

I married Wendy ZL4TM (SK) in 1991 and she became a silent key in 2006

I sat and passed the CW test in the mid 90's and became ZL4KD and started chasing Counties and Lakes and Lighthouses on the NZART Awards net each night and have a reasonable stash of certificates from that era including the top NZ Lighthouse award of which at the time only been issued a dozen issued.

I moved to Christchurch in 2007 and didn't set up antenna for a while so just listened from the sides until the Feb 11 2011 earthquake where I went in to Hagley Park to help with Arec.

I was instrumental getting World Wide Flora and Fauna started in NZ after chasing and gaining awards from Australian park activations with the help of Paul VK5PAS

As a family we chased the National System Awards that happened in January each year which ultimately resulted in my xyl Margaret getting her own licence as ZL3YF.

We are both active chasing and activating parks and lakes and catching Sota and really enjoy the oportunity to hunt out good activation spots off the Ontheair.nz web site and activate them when life gives us a chance.

When travelling, we often try to visit radio clubs in different areas and countries including RSGB Head Quarters in the UK and the National Radio Centre at Bletchely Park, Cambridge, Aberdeen and REAST in Hobart Australia.

I have also been known to hang out with the radio husbands at ALARA events in Australia.

I hope to catch you air at sometime

73 Ken
ZL4KD



THE PERFECT ANTENNA FOR WILDERNESS OPERATIONS.

It is cold, wet and windy here in Melkbosstrand this morning with no reason to go play outside, a perfect occasion to take stock of what I have and what I need :

Antennas: Wilderness radio antennas must be reliable, robust, efficient, highly portable, multiband, resonant (no tuner) and have a good bandwidth over the required frequency range. To satisfy these requirements I am continuously modifying, building and testing various configurations under different weather conditions and locations.

My choice arsenal at the moment consists of a four band (10, 15, 20 & 40m) linked dipole in an inverted "V" configuration; a telescopic vertical for 15 & 20m for dx (this also serves as the centre support (5m) for the inverted "V") and a "J-brid" (a hybrid stub matched endfed halfwave) for 40m.

With this collection I am confident I can operate from any location under most wx conditions. I do carry a small Elecraft T1 tuner just in case !

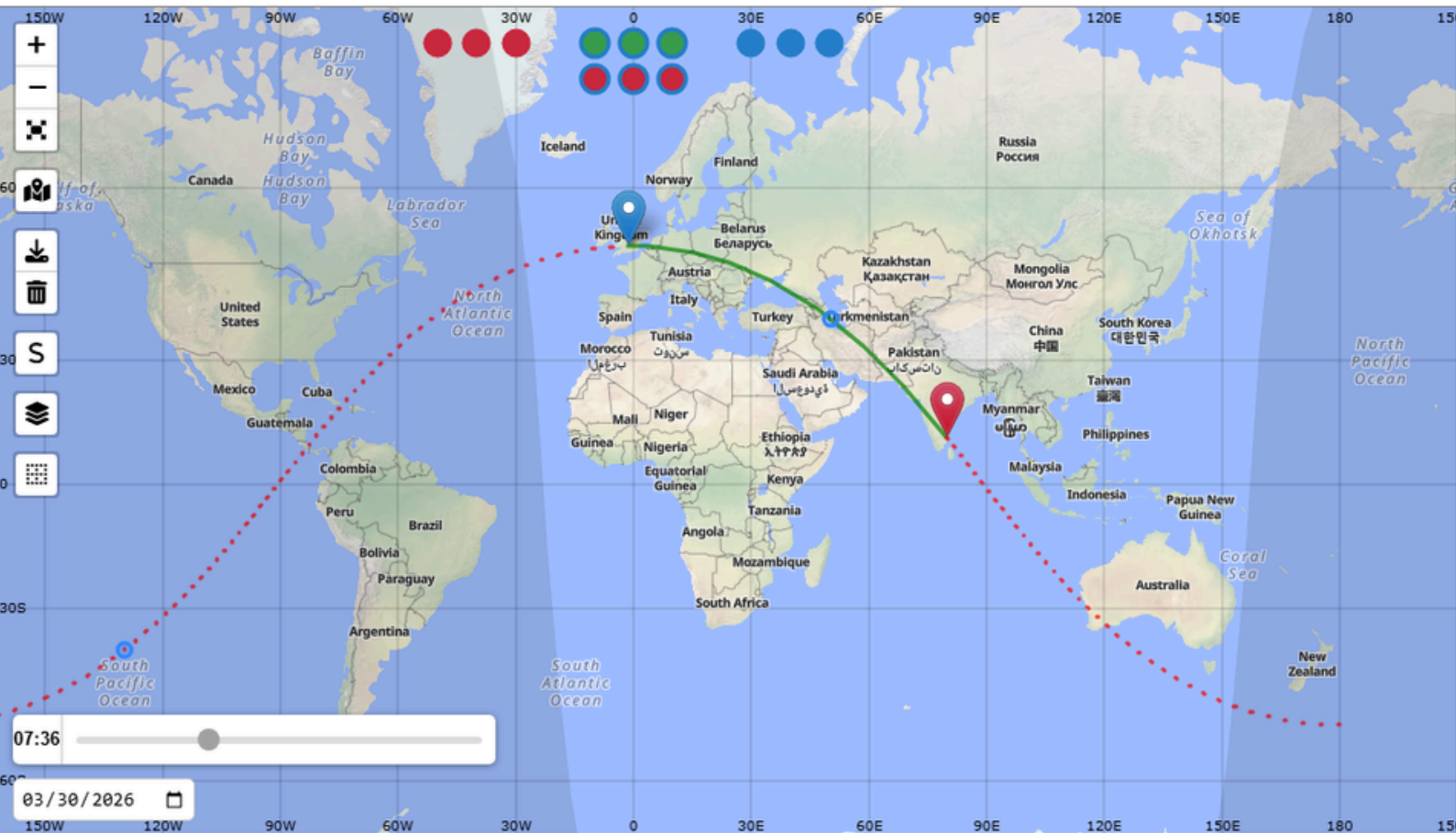
This bunch of antennas is relatively light weight and packs nice and compact in my backpack.



Editor: Some photos added for context

VOACAP Online for Ham Radio – 7:36:43 UTC (08:36 PM)

TX: << Select a location >> or set Grid: MK91vw or Latitude: 11.9000 Longitude: 79.8000
 RX: << Select a location >> or set Grid: IO91jt or Latitude: 51.8000 Longitude: -1.2500



TX: 11.90, 79.80 | RX: 51.80, -1.25 | Short: 8363 km — 5196 mi | 321° — 89° | Mid: 38.8161, 50.1502 | Long: 31645 km — 19663 mi | 141° — 269° | Mid: -38.8161, -129.8498

HF PREDICTIONS USING VOACAP (VOICE OF AMERICA COVERAGE ANALYSIS PROGRAM)

VOACAP (Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program) is a professional-grade, free high-frequency (3-30 MHz) radio propagation prediction software. Developed by the NTIA/ITS and originally created for the Voice of America to plan international shortwave broadcasting, it helps predict the performance of HF communications between two points (Point-to-Point) or over an area (Area Coverage)

Key Functions of VOACAP/HF:

- **HF Propagation Prediction:** It predicts the behavior of radio waves as they travel through the ionosphere.
- **Performance Metrics:** It calculates up to 22 parameters of circuit quality, including Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR), reliability, signal power, Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF), and takeoff/arrival angles.
- **Planning Tools:**
 - **Point-to-Point (P2P):** Predicts performance between a specific transmitter and receiver.
 - **Area Coverage (VOAAREA):** Produces maps showing coverage from a transmitter over a geographical area.
- **Input Variables:** Users can adjust parameters such as solar activity (SSN), date/time, transmitter power, and antenna configurations.
- **Data Analysis:** It allows for hourly and 24-hour predictions of HF spectrum usage, aiding in frequency selection for optimal communication.

VOACAP is widely used by amateur radio operators, broadcasters, and commercial operators for planning communication links and is available as an online tool (voacap.com) or standalone software for Windows/Linux.

[Click on text to follow link.](#)

THE HAM SHACK

You'll go higher with

spiderbeam
high performance lightweight antennas and masts



WHEN YOU ARE SERIOUS ABOUT DX
J51A



WWW.THEHAMSHACK.CO.NZ



WPX SSB 2026

WPX SSB 2026 – Despite being in the middle of a war here in Israel, with multiple sirens and quite a few runs to the shelter over the past 48 hours, I still managed to get on the air and operate. In total, I was able to put in around 18 hours. The score looks decent, but honestly not what I had hoped for.

The original goal was to push for a new personal record, but this time it did not happen. Operating conditions were generally OK, but activity felt somewhat lower compared to previous years. All in all, it was definitely not an easy contest under these circumstances, but we got it done. Looking forward to coming back next year, hopefully under much quieter conditions, both on the bands and off them.

73 and see you in WPX SSB next year, hopefully with fewer QRM from sirens.

4X6TT



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OpenWebRX web-based software defined radio receiver,
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Access Your SDR From Anywhere in the World!

Turn your ham shack into a global listening station!

Imagine tuning your radio from your phone while traveling, or letting fellow hams explore your station online. With open-source tools like OpenWebRX, you can stream your SDR over the internet and access it anytime, anywhere.

Using a Raspberry Pi and an RTL-SDR dongle, this project lets you create a powerful remote receiver that works directly from a web browser—no extra apps needed!

What You'll Need:

- Raspberry Pi (or any Linux PC)
- RTL-SDR or compatible SDR device
- Internet connection (with port forwarding)
- OpenWebRX software

What You Can Do:

- Tune frequencies remotely from any device
- Share your SDR with other operators worldwide
- Monitor bands even when you're away from your shack
- Run a multi-user online receiver

Why It's Awesome:

This is one of the easiest ways to bring your ham station into the modern internet era. Whether you're experimenting, learning, or building a community station—this setup opens up endless possibilities.

Try it yourself

<https://www.openwebrx.de/>



Access Your SDR from Anywhere!

OpenWebRX

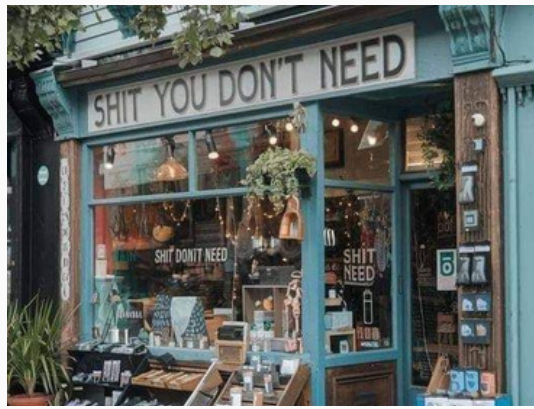
145.500.000 FM

-47 dB / 2.70 kHz | Signal

OpenWebRX

github.com/jketter/openwebrx

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