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NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO



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NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE

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John McGregor

NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE

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

Email:
ZL1GUD@proton.me

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

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www.thehamshack.co.nz

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12 MONTH AGO I STARTED
THE HAM SHACK
AND THE
NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE

SOME OF OUR SUPPLIERS WENT THE EXTRA MILE AND SENT US GOOD WISHES, WE APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP FROM ALL OF YOU.





From the Editor

So things are up and down at the moment, I have sold my property and bought a smaller, more remote property which is perfect for a DX farm.

I will be elevated and 200m from the sea so DX should be good. I bought some used masts more than a year ago and they will go up ASAP, one with a Spiderbeam 5 band yagi (with 40m) and the other with some wire antennas (Diamond and my military wide band antenna 2Mhz to 80Mhz). This should be operational by August.

Things will be in storage for a few weeks in June as I turn 65 and I am off to OZ to visit some of the clubs in NSW and I plan to do some POTA activations. Hayden VK4NU has been a great help getting to know the POTA system in OZ. This will be my 14th trip in just over 2 years, dare I say I fell in love with Australia, the petrol price and the Aldi's bins.

If any OZ operators in NSW are keen to share their amateur radio stories over a beer send me a mail and we can include you in the next magazine.

Thanks for the emails and support for the magazine.

Keep the rigs on. The world needs us.

73 Greg — Editor



My other passion
Flying in Africa 2010

Anniversary Edition

Thank you to all the radio amateurs who made the magazine (since day one) and especially this edition the biggest and best ever.

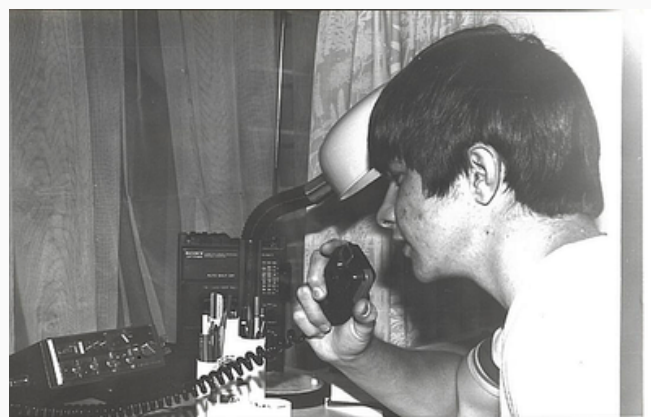
A special thank you to DX World, Amir 4X6TT, Spiderbeam and all the people who have written about their experiences, their activations, their gear, sent pictures of their shacks, called to offer support, etc.

I want to take this opportunity to thank a few people who have made this journey amazing:

- ex ZS6PM ex K7YCI France Anthelme who introduced me to Ham Radio in Africa around 1977
- Tony CT3PH we have been friends through ham radio since 1990

More recently:

- ZL3PAE who has been an amazing friend and POTA partner, who helped me immeasurably when starting The Ham Shack. A person who never sleeps and someone I can call at 3am to discuss an idea.
- ZL2NEB who is an inspiration, always keen to do an activation and always available for a chat.



My early radio days 1977

www.thehamshack.co.nz

Jed's ZL2BTN first activation



Sometimes its only by looking back that we can see how much things have changed and how far we've come.

I was recently reminded of this when doing an activation with a new operator - Jed (ZL2BTN). Jed passed his license last year at our Ham Cram and we'd recently been talking about activations following a recent meeting. Figuring that the best way to achieve something is to just pick a date and commit to it, I selected a weekend, quickly found a relatively close location, and sent out an alert. We had decided to try and activate "Big Lagoon" which is part of the Wairau Lagoons DOC area. I brought along the equipment and Jed brought along an inexhaustible supply of enthusiasm and an equally inexhaustible range of questions.

Once at our chosen location, near the wreck of the Waverley, I quickly setup the equipment, explaining what I was doing along the way. Soon the activation itself was underway and it was at this point that I reflected on how far things have come. When I first got involved in this aspect of the hobby a couple of years ago, you would have been pleased to get 10 contacts over the course of an hour. The pace then was slow, with plenty of calling and not many people responding. It was a great time to refine your approach as there was very little pressure. Now its quite different. We often found ourselves with 3 or 4 stations replying to each one of our calls.

I've had some practice with this sort of mini pile-up so it didn't phase me but I think it was a bit of a shock for Jed. During the 40min of our activation we recorded 33 contacts. Given that both of us were working each station that's quite a lot to deal with.

As the activation progressed I saw Jed start to relax. Initially he was (understandably) a little hesitant, not know exactly what to say, and speaking just a fraction too quietly but I saw his confidence grow as we pressed on. By the end, when we finally wrapped up, he was a different operator. One thing that impressed me greatly was the patience and encouragement that the chasers gave Jed when they discovered that it was his first activation. Many of these operators showed me the same patience and encouragement when I started and it was great to see that their attitude and enthusiasm still remained.

So what did Jed think about it all? Well let's just say I've been asked to find another location for next weekend and I think that this time I'll get Jed to do the setup!

Nick
ZL2NEB

Ed.. Nick with your dedication to POTA and your enthusiasm JED has a great Elmer/mentor.



Happy one year anniversary to Greg at The Ham Shack for your first year in business and one year of the Amateur Radio magazine!

As someone who knows how much effort is required to produce content regularly, I have some idea of how much time and commitment goes into producing an issue each month. It's not an easy task!

It's been great to see the magazine grow and progress over the last 12 months. I look forward to seeing how it continues to develop in the future. You are providing a much needed service, both with the magazine and with your business.

73's
Nick ZL2NEB

BIG THANKS

FOR THE SUPPORT FROM THE POTA COMMUNITY!

A HUGE SHOUTOUT TO GREG ZLIGUD FOR SHARING SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE AND GOING ABOVE & BEYOND!

THE HAM SHACK MAGAZINE IS THE ONLY ONE I READ – THANKS FOR JUST DOING IT!



≡ Cheers from ZL2BB ≡

Tiles on the Air

Ham radio and the outdoors, **together**. Hike, bike, paddle, ruck, or go mobile. Every tile counts.

What is a Tile?

A Tile is a **Maidenhead subsquare**, roughly 5×7 km at mid-latitudes (about the size of a neighborhood). Every inch of the planet is inside some tile: a backyard, a park, a trailhead, a beach, all tiles. Activate from anywhere as long as it's safe for you and others and you are allowed to operate there.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN ZL1KLF

The first Tile activation south of the equator. Awesome work John.

Right click for website link

 announcements >
10 Online



Tiles Announcements APP 05/15/2026 10:23 PM

 First Southern Hemisphere activation on Tiles!

ZL1KLF (John) just put New Zealand on the map. His first activation went up yesterday from the **Illustrious Energy Hut** in the Aldinga Conservation Area, just outside Alexandra on the South Island. Grid **RE44pq**.

Conditions sounded brutal: **0°C and foggy**. He worked **18 QSOs**, all QRP at 10W from a Xiegu G90 into an inverted-V dipole, carrying a 26.5 lb ruck. **100 points**.

This is the first Tile activation south of the equator. Tiles now reaches three continents on a single leaderboard.

If you've got a few minutes, his card on the Community feed has three photos from the hut and the gear setup, plus a write-up worth a read. Welcome aboard, John, and 73 from the rest of us!

 <https://tilesontheair.com/Community> (look for the ZL1KLF card from May 14)

Tiles on the Air

Tiles on the Air: Ham Radio Meets Outdoor Activity

Activate Maidenhead grid tiles, earn points for distance $\times$ QSOs, chase activators, and climb the leaderboard.



FROM A SPIDERBEAM MAST IN NZ TO ANTARCTICA CONTACTING A VK AT DAVIS STATION



From a Spiderbeam Mast in NZ to Antarctica A New ZL Ham Contacts a VK at Davis Station

A little bit about how I became interested in radio.

Back around 1997 or 1998, when I was seven or eight years old, Mum and Dad bought me a walkie talkie set, as we called them back then. It consisted of two handheld radios along with one square base-station style radio. It certainly was not the most powerful setup in the world, probably only reaching around 800 metres or so, but looking back now it became one of the first real sparks that ignited my interest in radio communication.

Me and my brother, and sometimes my sister if we allowed her to play with us, would spend hours running around the property talking over the radios. The base station was set up in a bunker we had dug out underneath the house — much to Dad's dislike considering we had managed to burrow down suspiciously close to the house piles.

Even back then there was something fascinating about speaking into a radio and hearing somebody answer back somewhere else.

That interest stayed quietly in the background for years, but it was not fully tapped into until around five months ago.

I currently work as a Warrant of Fitness inspector in New Zealand, and one day an older gentleman by the name of Syd Rowe booked his vehicle in for an inspection. While carrying out the WoF, I immediately noticed both the antenna mounted on the bonnet and his personalised number plate displaying his callsign. Seeing the "ZL" on the plate instantly caught my attention and I quickly put two and two together that he was an amateur radio operator.

Then spotting an Icom IC-2730 mounted in the centre of the vehicle pretty much confirmed it, so naturally I struck up a conversation with Syd about radio.

As it turned out, Syd was heavily involved in amateur radio and was also one of the examiners at the local radio club. He encouraged me to study and "have a crack" at getting my licence.

Like many things in life, I kept meaning to do it but never quite got around to it. Then before I knew it, I was suddenly sitting in a room completing my amateur radio exam.

Looking back now, it is funny to think that a simple conversation sparked by a personalised number plate during a Warrant of Fitness inspection would end up opening the door to an entirely new world.

Like many new operators, once I got my licence I quickly found myself diving headfirst into radios, antennas, YouTube videos, forums, coax cables, and trying to absorb as much information as possible. Before long I was experimenting with HF using a Xiegu G90 paired with a SIGMA G5RV 1/2 Size antenna configured as an inverted V on a 12 metre Spiderbeam mast.

Getting the antenna up at home turned into an adventure in itself. The Spiderbeam mast proved to be a great workaround for getting an antenna into the air, although my wife was not overly impressed arriving home one afternoon to discover I had cut down half her tree to make the setup work properly.

AUSTRALIAN OPERATOR DAVID SCOTT

VK2JDS/VK0DS



Only recently I downloaded WSJT-X and started learning FT8 during the early hours of the morning. Like many people new to digital modes, I was amazed watching signals appear on the screen from places all over the world.

Then one particular callsign appeared on my screen — VK0DS.

At first I could hardly believe it. Antarctica.

The contact itself was made on 15 metres using FT8, roughly 6,500 kilometres from my modest home station in New Zealand. In the world of FT8 that distance may not seem particularly remarkable to some seasoned operators, but as a new ham operator it completely opened my eyes to what modern amateur radio is capable of.

The contact was with Australian operator David Scott, VK2JDS/VK0DS, operating from Davis Research Station in Antarctica.

What made the experience even more memorable was what happened afterwards.

I decided to send David a quick email simply to say thanks for being out there transmitting from such an incredible location. I honestly did not expect much more than perhaps a short reply, but instead I received a detailed email describing life and radio operations from Antarctica itself.

ZL1JTS - hello from New Zealand

Inbox

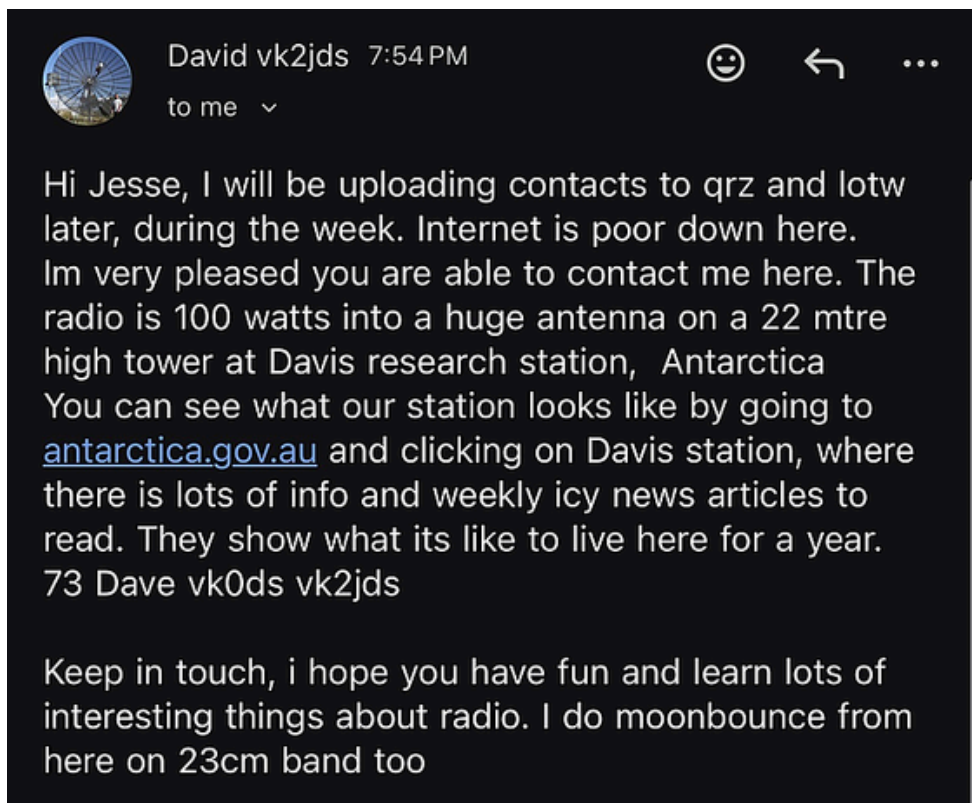


me 3:39 PM
to vk2jds ▾



hi david, my name is Jesse Shaw, i am a new Ham and have had my licence 5 months now and only last night did i download WSJT-Xv3.0.0 and learn how to operate it early hours of this morning, i was very excited to see a contact made down in antarctica i couldn't believe it. i thought I would send an email to just say thanks for being out there and having that end fed up transmitting. I have logged you on QRZ. all the best and don't catch a cold

Regards Jesse Shaw - ZL1JTS



David explained he was operating from Davis Research Station using 100 watts into antennas mounted on a 22 metre tower. Internet access was limited, temperatures were dropping toward -30°C and beyond, and winter was approaching with extended periods of darkness.

Along with the email came photographs from the station — snow-covered buildings surrounded by ice and rock, brilliant green auroras lighting the Antarctic sky, and the station itself isolated at the edge of the frozen continent.

Only a few hours earlier Antarctica had simply been a place on a map to me. By sunrise it had become a real person, a real station, and a real connection.

As our emails continued back and forth, David spoke about moonbounce operations from Antarctica on the 23 cm band, building antennas from bamboo poles and scrap copper wire, and operating in brutal conditions where even adjusting an antenna sometimes meant walking outside into blowing snow and temperatures pushing toward -40°C with wind chill.

At the same time, I found myself beginning my own portable radio journey back home in New Zealand. I recently put together a portable go-box setup for my Xiegu G90 and headed out on my first proper activation using a resonant 40 metre end-fed antenna that I had built and tuned myself using a NanoVNA analyser. To my surprise, I managed to log my first ten contacts within around fifteen minutes.

There was something almost surreal about the contrast between our stations and environments.

On one side of the world was an experienced Australian communications technician operating amongst snow, ice, auroras, and Antarctic darkness. On the other side was me operating portable from a grassy park in New Zealand while my wife and kids fed ducks nearby.

Yet amateur radio effortlessly connected both worlds.

One thing this experience really taught me is that amateur radio is not just about equipment, frequencies, or making contacts. It is about people, experimentation, curiosity, and the friendships and conversations that unexpectedly develop through the hobby.

Without radio, our paths almost certainly never would have crossed.

Another thing I quickly discovered after getting licensed was just how supportive the amateur radio community can be. Since entering the hobby, there have been three people in particular who have helped me tremendously on the journey so far — Syd Rowe (ZL1LWR), Andrew Race (ZL1KN), and Roy Hopkins (ZL1RJH). All three are seasoned amateur radio operators with decades of knowledge between them and have always been willing to help point me in the right direction whenever I inevitably get stuck or have another question.



As a new operator, having experienced hams willing to share their knowledge and encourage newcomers makes an enormous difference, and I genuinely appreciate the time they have all taken to help me along the way.

For me, amateur radio has already become far more than simply talking over the airwaves. It has become a hobby that constantly teaches, challenges, and surprises me, while connecting me to people and places I otherwise would never experience.

And to think it all started back in 1997 or 1998 with a couple of walkie talkies, a homemade bunker under the house, and one conversation during a Warrant of Fitness inspection.

73,

Jesse Shaw
ZL1JTS

UTC	dB	DT	Freq	Message
032206	1x		1400	~ VK0DS ZL1JTS RF82
032215	-12	0.9	1400	~ ZL1BW VK0DS R+04
032245	-2	0.9	1634	~ ZL1JTS W5THT EM50 LA-MS-AL
032300	Tx		1400	~ VK0DS ZL1JTS RF82
032309	Tx		1400	~ W5THT ZL1JTS -02
032315	10	0.8	1632	~ BA3QIQ NJ7G -10
032330	Tx		1400	~ W5THT ZL1JTS -02
032403	Tx		1400	~ W5THT ZL1JTS -02
032145	-13	0.9	1400	~ CQ VK0DS MC81 Antarctica
032430	Tx		1400	~ VK0DS ZL1JTS RF82
032445	-13	1.0	1399	~ ZL1JTS VK0DS -04
032445	-11	0.9	1634	~ ZL1JTS W5THT R-05
032500	Tx		1400	~ VK0DS ZL1JTS R-13
032445	-16	1.4	1395	~ A61CK KB7JUG DM34 AZ
032530	Tx		1400	~ VK0DS ZL1JTS R-13
032545	-10	0.9	1398	~ ZL1JTS VK0DS RR73 Antarctica
032600	Tx		1400	~ VK0DS ZL1JTS 73
032615	-10	1.0	1398	~ CQ VK0DS MC81 Antarctica

3G0Z & XR0Z – JUAN FERNÁNDEZ ISLANDS



The 3G0Z operation began a couple of hours ahead of schedule. At the moment, operations are taking place on the 17m band using SSB and FT8 modes, with a single element Delta Loop antenna. Over the next few hours, I expect to continue installing the remaining antennas and bring the linear amplifier into service in order to expand the station's operating capabilities. Weather conditions on the island are somewhat unstable, with cloudy skies and occasional light rain showers; however, the temperature is quite pleasant at around 15°C (59°F). There are also periods of light wind, but nothing to be concerned about.

The location selected for the antenna installation is approximately 40 meters above sea level, with an excellent takeoff toward Europe, Africa, and the central United States, providing good propagation prospects.

The estimated operating period is around 20 days, photos of the antennas and radio station setup will be shared ASAP.

EI9KA/MM & EASTER ISLAND ACTIVITY



From 17 May until early June, Patrick, EI9KA, will be taking part in a sailing expedition over 4000 km across the South Pacific from Galapagos Islands to Rapa Nui (Easter Island). He hopes to be on the air as EI9KA/MM at various stages of this voyage.

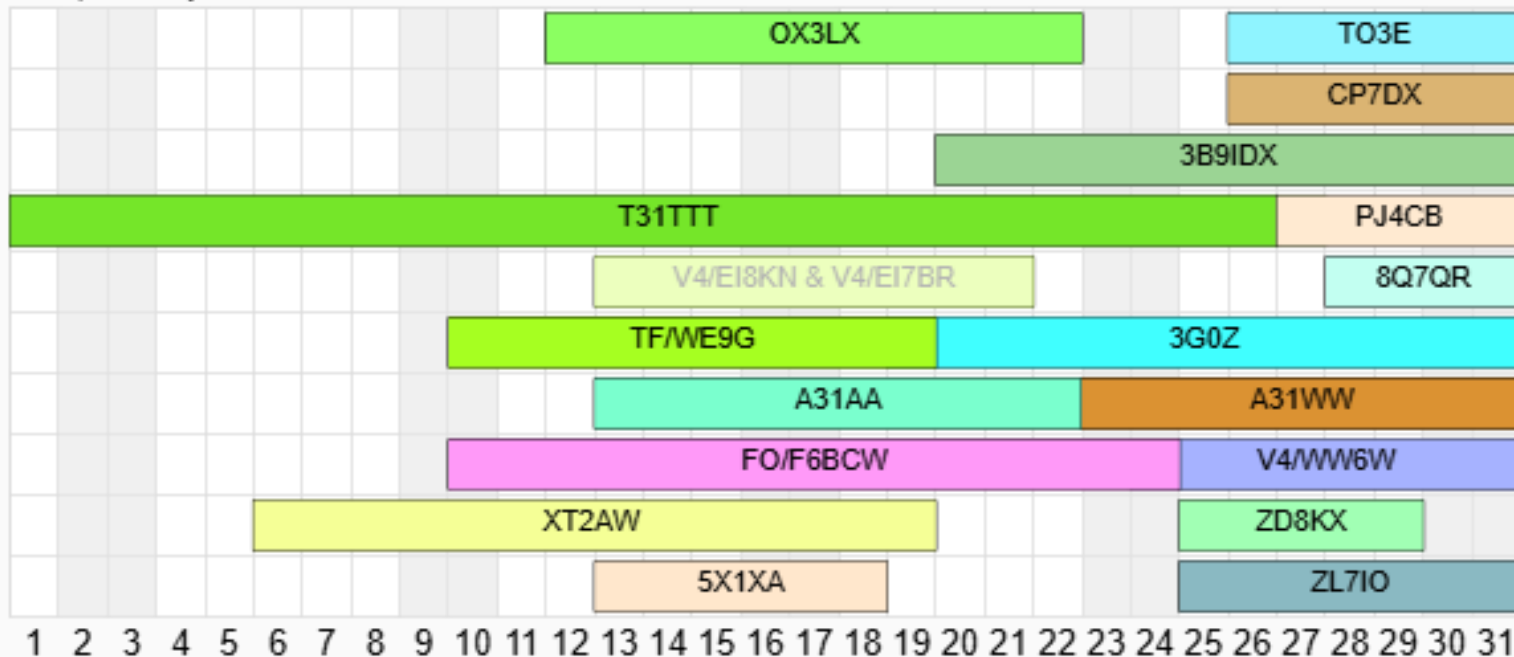
He has also applied to the Chilean authorities for a licence to operate from Hanga Roa on Rapa Nui island from 6 to 12 June. Patrick will be equipped with QRP SOTA gear and will mainly be active on 20m FT8.

An update will follow when there is more news about the licence and the callsign to be used. There will be very little internet connectivity during this expedition so confirmation of contacts and QSLs will be organised through OORS from late June onwards, after Patrick's return to Ireland.



DXWORLD.net FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE

Last update: May 18, 2026



Edited by MM0NDX

MAY

© IK8LOV Max Laconca

FO/F6BCW – FRENCH POLYNESIA



Part of the recent [TX9W](#) DXpedition to Marquesas Islands, Didier FO/F6BCW is again QRV from Tikehau Atoll. Earlier info and pics below. He is expected to stay in FO until mid-July.

Due to very heavy squalls and violent thunderstorms, the 30m and 40m bands are out – temporary antenna setups are destroyed. The VDA (Vertical Dipole Arrays) had almost collapsed too. The station itself is OK, says Didier.



Courtesy of DXworld.net





A31WW – TONGA

Oliver, W6NV will be active from Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu Island, Kingdom of Tonga as A31WW during the CQ WPX CW contest (May 30-31, 2026). QSOs will be confirmed via LoTW. says Oliver. Duration of stay: May 23 to June 2.



OJOMN & OJOZ – MARKET REEF

Markus, OH1MN sends us info to say he should be QRV from Market Reef as OJOMN with Juha OH1LEG signing as OJØZ during May 30 to June 6, 2026.

They plan to be active on 6 & 4m plus HF bands; SSB, CW, Digi.

**THE HAM
SHACK**

You'll go higher with

 **spiderbeam**
high performance lightweight antennas and masts



WHEN YOU ARE SERIOUS ABOUT DX

**A BIG CONSIGNMENT OF SPIDERBEAM ANTENNAS HAS
JUST ARRIVED FROM GERMANY**

NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL AGENTS

- 3 Band Yagi's 10m, 15m & 20m Kit
- 3 Band Yagi's 10m, 15m & 20m Pre-assembled
- 5 Band Yagi's 10m, 12, 15m, 17m & 20m Kit
- 5 Band Yagi's Pre-assembled
- 5 Band Yagi's Portable Pre-assembled
- 40m add on (use with Spiderbeam yagis)
- GOPAK 12m mast and 404 7 band antenna
- 404 7 band antenna & 807 9 band antenna
- 12m Masts with collars
- 10m Masts
- Mast bags



LOTS OF STOCK

WWW.THEHAMSHACK.CO.NZ



END OF AN ERA: Yaesu Discontinues the Iconic FT-991A Series!

It is official. Yaesu has officially ceased production of its incredibly popular FT-991A series of amateur radio transceivers—including the FT-991A, FT-991AM, and FT-991AS.

First introduced in 2016 as an upgrade to the original FT-991, this legendary series became a global best-seller and an absolute favorite for both beginners and experienced hams.

Why we loved it:

All-in-One Powerhouse: It combined HF to 430MHz bands into a single, compact body.

All-Mode Capabilities: Packed with C4FM digital mode, built-in antenna tuner (HF/50MHz), and a crisp color touch display.

Real-Time Spectrum Scope: Revolutionized the operator experience by keeping audio completely uninterrupted during sweeps.

Why is it retiring?

According to industry reports, manufacturing has concluded due to increasing difficulties in procuring essential electronic components. Yaesu warehouses are already nearly out of stock, making remaining store inventories the last chance to grab one brand new.

While the ham community bids a bittersweet farewell to this benchtop staple, the spotlight now fully shifts to Yaesu's next-generation successor, the highly acclaimed ****FTX-1 series**** (FTX-1 Field, FTX-1 optima50, FTX-1 DX).

Rest in peace to a true modern classic.

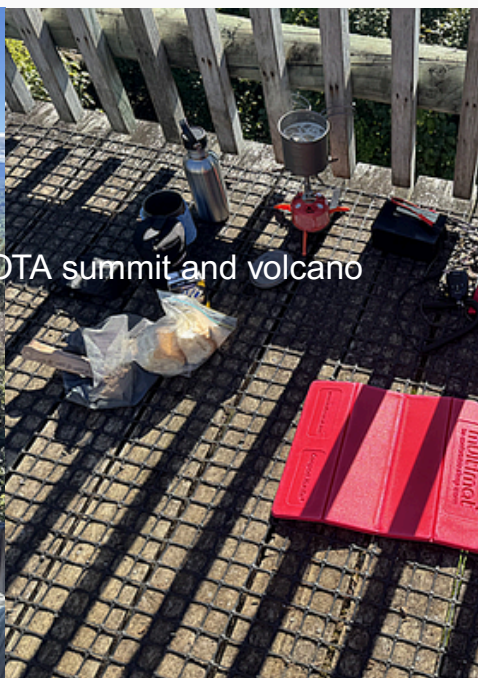
Do you own an FT-991A?

To follow DV1K please click and follow the link

ACTIVATIONS



Ian ZL1IM
ZL1/wk-134 Maungakawa - SOTA summit and volcano



Hayden
ZK4NU



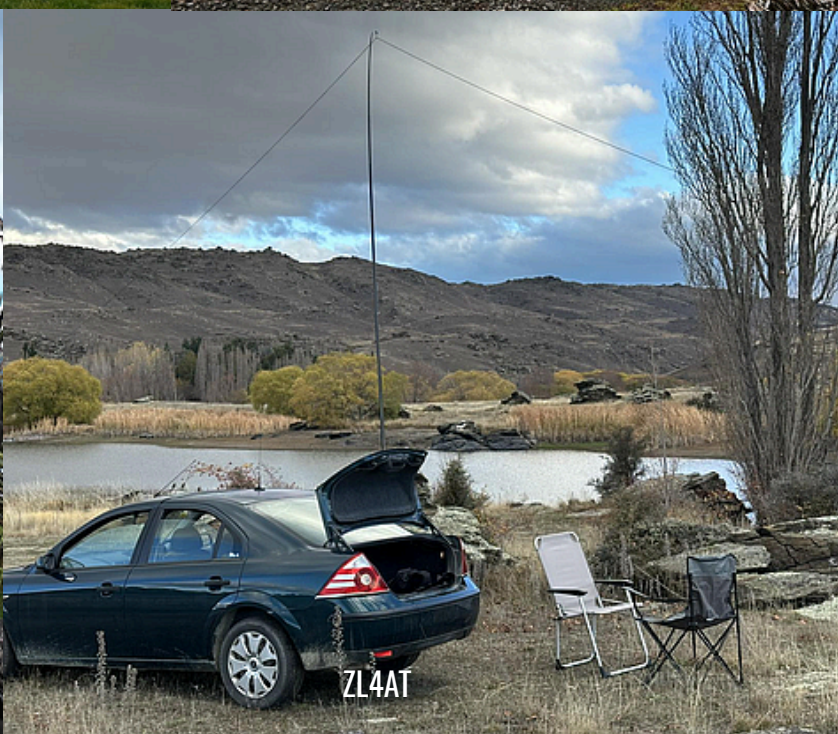
ZL3RIK



ZL1GA



ZL2NEB



ZL4AT

ACTIVATIONS



THE POTAHOLICS MID-WINTER 30 EVENT



That sounds like a fantastic way to keep the spirit of radio alive during the colder months! Bruce (ZL1BW) and Grant (ZL1GGL) have put together a solid plan to boost activity on the ZL bands.

To make sure you're ready for the Mid-Winter 30, here's a quick "cheat sheet" of the essentials.

The Game Plan

- Date & Time: Sunday, 28 June, from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm.
- The Goal: Bank 30 voice contacts within that 12-hour window.
- Eligibility: Open to **all ZL operators**. Focus is strictly on ZL-POTA and ZL-LOTA (**International POTA and Summits don't count** for this one).

How to Participate

- Chasers: Start by hunting activators between 7.080 – 7.095 MHz. Once you've contacted the activators, move to 7.100 MHz and above to work other chasers then check for more activators during the day and so on until you get your 30 contacts..
- Activators: Spot as usual on ontheair.nz and drop a note on potaholics.co.nz to help the new folks find you.
- The Log: Keep it simple. You just need a text list of the Call Sign and Time for each contact.

Winning Prizes

Once the clock hits 9:00 pm, you have one week to email your logs to midwinter30@potaholics.co.nz. Make sure your Call Sign and Name are in the subject line to enter the draw for prizes from ZL1BW, ZL1GGL, and The Ham Shack.

It's great to see the community coming together to support local legends like **Matt Briggs** from <https://ontheair.nz>, **Rob ZL2BB** for the domain, potaholics.co.nz and **Greg** from The Ham Shack.

First Timers - Thank you so much for having a go. Just check out potaholics.co.nz for more info... 73's Grant - ZL1GGL

RADIOTEK



It was a dark and stormy night. There is no power – no internet, no mobile connections. How do I hear what is going on or what Civil Defence are advising, I don't even have an old school radio. It is about being prepared with your emergency kit which should have a battery powered radio with spare batteries.

That is where Radiotek comes in. We run a workshop where we show you how to build a FM Radio Receiver (old school FM emergency radio) so you can hear what is happening in your community or on one of the radio channels it can scan, find out about communications in an emergency and learn a little about how radio works.

If you haven't soldered or built anything before – not a problem. This workshop is exactly what you need. We teach you how to solder and you practice this while making a wiggly worm game and once you have that completed, it is onto your FM Radio Receiver build.

We provide everything you need for the day and everyone takes home their wiggly worm game and their FM Radio Receiver. Need help during the day? We have volunteers (Kelvin, Des, Rod, Aiden, Roger, Ivan and others) to help you if you get stuck.

We welcome anyone 13+ – adults and teenagers, boys and girls, mums and dads, grandma's and grandads, aunties and uncles – everyone is welcome.

The workshop is from usually 9.30-4pm. There is a small cost to cover parts. \$30 per person for the day.

If you would like to know more, please contact me, Linda McCarthy (ZL3GWX- Radio Call Sign)

Radiotek Co-Ordinator, radiotektwo@gmail.com



HF Band Conditions Forecast: June 2026

What to Expect on the Bands During Winter in the Southern Hemisphere

As we head into the winter months of June 2026, amateur radio operators in New Zealand and Australia will experience some interesting propagation dynamics. The transition into the Southern Hemisphere winter brings both challenges and opportunities for HF operators. This article examines the expected band conditions and provides practical guidance for maximizing your on-air time.

Solar Activity and the Current Cycle

Solar Cycle 25 continues to progress, with current predictions showing a Solar Flux Index (SFI) in the range of 95-115 during June. This represents a moderately active sun, which is favorable for HF propagation compared to the depths of the solar minimum we experienced just a few years ago. The sunspot number is expected to remain relatively stable, providing consistent propagation patterns throughout the month.

The K-index and A-index are forecast to remain relatively quiet during June, with occasional minor geomagnetic disturbances possible but nothing severe. This stability is excellent news for consistent propagation, particularly on the longer-distance paths that New Zealand and Australian operators rely upon.

Band-by-Band Forecast for June 2026

80 Meters (3.5-3.8 MHz)

June is an excellent month for 80-meter operation in the Southern Hemisphere. As winter approaches, nighttime propagation becomes increasingly reliable. Expect strong openings to other Southern Hemisphere stations, particularly to Australia from New Zealand and vice versa. European openings will be possible during the early morning hours (0400-0600 UTC), though these will be sporadic and dependent on geomagnetic conditions.

Daytime 80-meter propagation will be limited, with local and regional contacts being the primary focus. However, the longer nights of winter mean extended evening and early morning operating windows. CW and SSB modes will both perform well, with SSB preferred for local nets and CW for DX work.

Recommendation: Schedule your 80-meter DX attempts during the early morning hours (0400-0700 UTC) for the best opportunities to reach Europe and North America.

40 Meters (7.0-7.3 MHz)

The 40-meter band will be one of the most reliable performers during June. Winter propagation on 40 meters is typically excellent, with consistent openings to Europe, Asia, and North America throughout the day and night. The band will be particularly active during the evening hours (1800-2200 UTC) when the terminator line favors long-distance propagation.

Expect strong signals from European stations during the evening, with North American openings possible during the late evening and early morning hours. The band will remain open to other Southern Hemisphere stations throughout the day, making 40 meters an excellent choice for both DX and casual operating.

Recommendation: 40 meters should be your go-to band for consistent DX during June. Monitor the band during the evening hours for the best European openings.

HF Band Conditions Forecast: Continued

30 Meters (10.1-10.15 MHz)

The 30-meter band will provide steady, reliable propagation during June. As a narrow band with limited activity compared to 40 meters, 30 meters often provides excellent DX opportunities with less QRM. Expect consistent openings to Europe and Asia, with occasional North American contacts possible during favorable conditions.

The band's characteristics make it ideal for CW operators seeking quieter propagation paths. Digital modes (FT8, RTTY) will also perform well on this band, providing opportunities for operators using these modes.

Recommendation: 30 meters is an excellent choice for CW DX work and digital mode enthusiasts seeking quieter propagation with less competition.

20 Meters (14.0-14.35 MHz)

June will see 20 meters remain open for most of the day, though the band will be less dramatically open than during the peak of the solar cycle. Expect reliable propagation to Europe during the morning hours (0600-1000 UTC) and to North America during the afternoon and evening (1400-2000 UTC). Asian openings will be possible during the evening hours.

The band will be most active during the daytime hours, with nighttime propagation becoming increasingly limited as winter progresses. However, the band will remain a reliable performer for both casual operating and serious DX work.

Recommendation: Focus on 20 meters during the daytime hours for the best propagation. Early morning and evening hours will provide the most interesting DX opportunities.

17 Meters (18.068-18.168 MHz)

The 17-meter band will be open during the daytime hours, with propagation characteristics similar to 20 meters but with somewhat shorter skip distances. Expect good openings to Europe and Asia during the morning and afternoon hours. The band will be less active than 20 meters but will provide excellent opportunities for operators seeking quieter propagation.

Recommendation: 17 meters is an excellent alternative to the busier 20-meter band, offering good propagation with less competition.

15 Meters (21.0-21.45 MHz)

The 15-meter band will be open during the daytime hours, with propagation dependent on the current solar flux index. With an SFI in the 95-115 range, expect sporadic openings to Europe and North America, particularly during the morning and afternoon hours. The band will be less reliable than 20 or 17 meters but will provide occasional excellent DX opportunities.

Recommendation: Monitor 15 meters during the daytime hours, particularly during the morning when European openings are most likely.

12 Meters (24.89-24.99 MHz)

The 12-meter band will be open during favorable daytime conditions, with propagation highly dependent on solar activity. With the current solar flux index, expect sporadic openings to Europe and North America, particularly during the morning hours. The band will be less active than the lower HF bands but will provide occasional exciting DX opportunities for those willing to search.

Recommendation: 12 meters is best approached as an opportunistic band—monitor it during the daytime hours and take advantage of openings when they occur.

10 Meters (28.0-29.7 MHz)

The 10-meter band will be challenging during June, with openings dependent on favorable solar conditions and sporadic E propagation. With the current solar flux index, expect only occasional openings to Europe and North America. However, when the band does open, it can provide excellent propagation with strong signals.

Recommendation: 10 meters should be monitored during the daytime hours, but don't expect consistent openings. Focus on the lower HF bands for more reliable propagation.

Seasonal Considerations for Southern Hemisphere Winter

June marks the beginning of winter in the Southern Hemisphere, bringing several propagation advantages:

Extended Darkness: The longer nights mean extended operating windows, particularly on the lower frequency bands (80m and 40m). This is excellent for night owls and those seeking European DX.

Stable Atmospheric Conditions: Winter typically brings more stable atmospheric conditions, resulting in more predictable propagation patterns and fewer sudden changes.

Reduced Atmospheric Noise: The cooler temperatures and reduced thunderstorm activity during winter result in lower atmospheric noise levels, making weak signals easier to copy.

Favorable Terminator Paths: The angle of the terminator line during winter favors propagation paths to Europe and North America, making these regions more accessible.

Practical Operating Tips for June 2026

Time Your DX Attempts

Plan your DX operating around the optimal times for specific regions:

- Europe: 0400-1000 UTC (early morning and morning)
- North America: 1400-2100 UTC (afternoon and evening)
- Asia: 1000-1600 UTC (late morning and afternoon)



JUNE 6-7th 2026

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FOUNDATION LICENCE THEORY and REGULATIONS

This material is free for your personal use in preparing for the Foundation licence theory exam.

Work through each chapter then undertake the questions for that chapter. Then, compare your answers with the answers offered.

The material provided below does not replace the Foundation Manual but, is designed to complement and provide self testing questions.

Do you find this material helpful? [Let me know!](#)

Supplementary Training Material



Click on the photo to order the manual. (There is a fee for the hard copy manual.)

Click on the photo. (There is no fee for access to the material)

As promised, I developed videos, updated training material and questionnaires for the Foundation, Standard and Advanced licences.

This training material is now supplemented with individual videos on each subject.

A short introduction to amateur radio is also included.

Introduction to amateur radio <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-m8GoYJ2Wzw>

Foundation Theory and Regulations

<https://www.julesworkshop.net/Amateur%20Radio%20Group/3%20Foundation%20licence%20page.html>

Practical <https://www.julesworkshop.net/Amateur%20Radio%20Group/4%20Practical%20page.html>

Standard Theory <https://www.julesworkshop.net/Amateur%20Radio%20Group/2%20Standard%20licence%20page.html>

Advanced Theory

<https://www.julesworkshop.net/Amateur%20Radio%20Group/1%20Advanced%20licence%20page.html>

Feel free to use this material for anyone wishing to get a licence or endeavouring to upskill their current licence.

Here in Australia, not all candidates have local access to a radio club or tutor for exam preparation.

Many potential candidates also undertake shift work or work remotely.

The rationale for this material, is to encourage and support anyone anywhere who is interested in amateur radio to prepare for their exams.

Please use this material freely to aid anyone wishing to upskill or join the service of amateur radio.

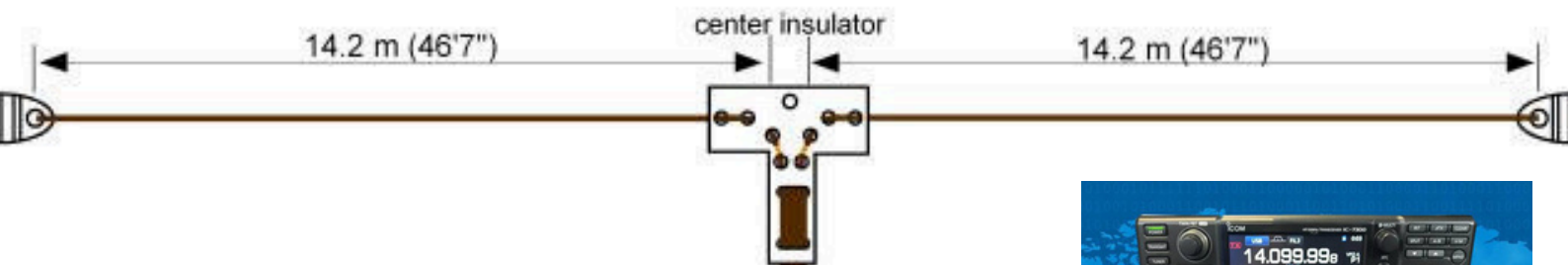
Jules Perrin JP

0457585974

VK3JFP

www.julesworkshop.net

Click on the text for direct links



COMPETITION CALENDAR



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

	May 21 Thursday	May 22 Friday	May 23 Saturday	May 24 Sunday	May 25 Monday	May 26 Tuesday	May 27 Wednesday	May 28 Thursday
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA								
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest								
NAQCC CW Sprint								
CWops Test (CWT)								
CWops Test (CWT)								
NTC QSO Party								
NCCC FT4 Sprint								
Weekly RTTY Test								
NCCC Sprint								
K1USN Slow Speed Test								
Real Time Contest								
QRP ARCI Hootowl Sprint								
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								
SKCC Sprint								
Phone Weekly Test								
A1Club AWT								
CWops Test (CWT)								
Mini-Test 40								
Mini-Test 80								
CWops Test (CWT)								
CWops Test (CWT)								
CWops Test (CWT)								
RSGB 80m Club Championship, CW								

Full charge ahead for converted '83 Starion



HOW I STARTED IN RADIO...

CARMEL
VK2NO / VK2CAR

Carmel Duryea with her converted electric-powered 1983 Mitsubishi Starion.

Pictures: DANIELLE BUTTERS

JESSICA CLEMENT

GREAT Scott. Could the future of motoring lie beneath the bonnet of a 1983 Mitsubishi Starion?

seriously, "hates cars – I really do hate them".

Powered by 45 batteries, the Starion operates just as any petrol-powered vehicle would expect without the noise, the pol-

government, really wanted to push the technology it could happen almost immediately."

She said she had never had an interest in cars but had a keen mind with a focus on technology

bit by bit – but there are kits available for around \$10,000 that will do the job," she said.

To recharge the Starion's batteries Ms Duryea simply plugs it into the wall. Admittedly, her power

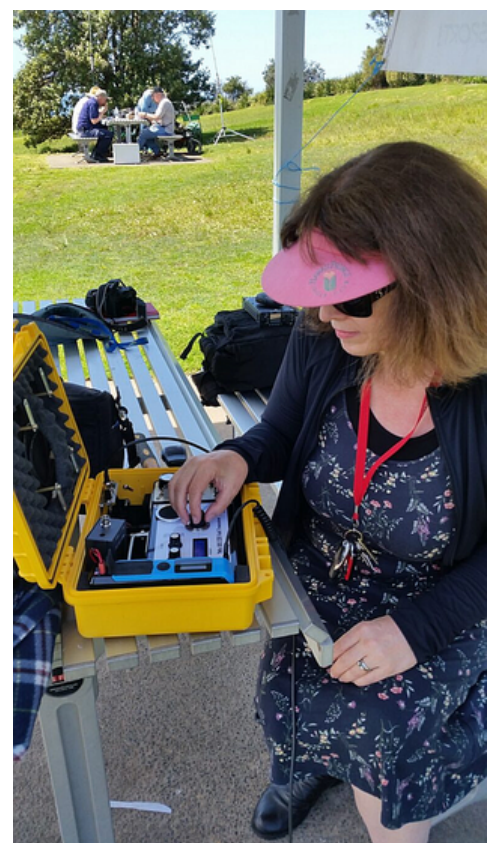
How I started in radio...

I had a license when I was 13 because my Mom was a RO in the airforce. School, travel and playing in a band put a stop to it until in 2008 when I decided to convert a Mitsubishi Starion to all electric in honor of my late husband who loved these cars and who died a year before. While designing and building the electric vehicle (which appeared in Silicon Chip Magazine Dec 2008) I came across many radio folk. So went for my standard license in Feb 2009 and then advance license a month later. Why muck about?

These days I build and design radios and antennas, go portable with the famous Professor Portable, Colin VK2JCC, write radio articles, have fun in our club, Manly Warringah Radio Society, especially their buildathons, and also operate VK2VMP aboard HMAS Vampire in Sydney's Darling Harbor.

Still having fun in radio, met many great people. Still hoping for more YLs in radio. One day :)

73,
Carmel
VK2NO / VK2CAR





WHEN YOU WANT YAESU IN NEW ZEALAND!

Editor note: I am so happy with my radio from Andrews Comms I am leaving this recommendation in.

BTW I paid for my radio in full and the advert has been included at no charge. Great & friendly service needs to be rewarded!

My first HF rig was a Yaesu, and that was almost 40 years ago and so when I wanted a top of the line radio I considered both brands but most reviews and the Sherwood report took me back to Yaesu.

When looking around on Google I found a website that lists products that were discontinued 6 years ago and so I decided to support Andrews Communications in Sydney NSW. I had been into the store a number of times when visiting my daughter, and so contacted them for a price and availability on the Yaesu FTDX101D.

I had a response within an hour. They sent me the box dimension and weight so that I could pass it onto my courier. (they can also arrange a courier but since I have a Fedex account it was cheaper using my courier). Within 24 hours I had paid the invoice and within 36 hours the radio had been collected by Fedex and two working days later I had the radio in the shack.

There are great CASH BACK deals on Yaesu at the moment.



New YAESU Instant Cashback!

FTDX-101MP...A\$250 Cashback

FTDX-101D...A\$250 Cashback

FTDX-10...A\$150 Cashback

FT-710 AESS...A\$150 Cashback

FT-710 Field...A\$150 Cashback

FTX-1 Optima...A\$150 Cashback

FTX-1 Field...A\$150 Cashback

FT-5DR...A\$50 Cashback

Cashback Promotion amounts apply to new sales of above radios from March 28 to June 30, 2026. Yaesu Cashback applies to Australian & NZ sales. Name & address required by Yaesu for Cashback.

Remember the following:

- You pay the retail price less the OZ tax
- You will pay courier costs
- In NZ you will pay GST and clearing fees
- You will need a customs client code.
- A radio dealer license number



Andrews Communications Systems Established 1976 - ABN 58 001 968 752

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02 9896 8972.

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Please call us if you expect to arrive
after 3:30pm as we must leave by
3:30pm on rare occasions.

Saturdays, Sundays and applicable
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Mailing address;

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Camden,
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50th ANNUAL FIELD DAY

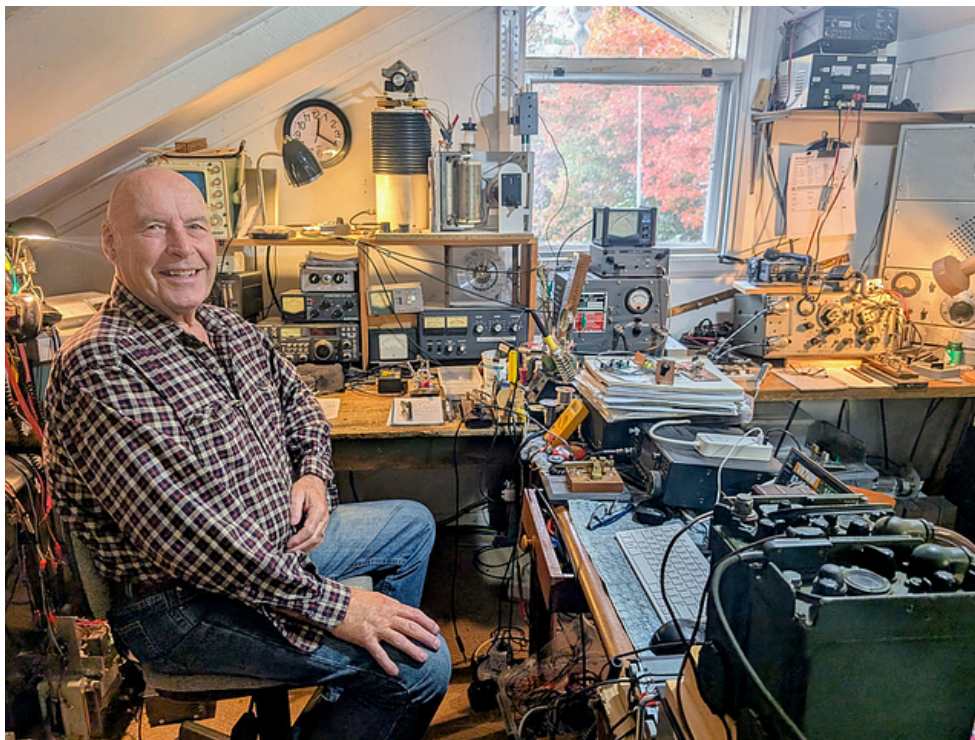
**Saturday and Sunday
6th & 7th JUNE 2026**

**In the Wauchope Showground Hall
High Street, Wauchope NSW**

Oxley Region Amateur Radio Club Inc.
PO Box 712, Port Macquarie NSW 2444
www.orarc.org | Club Station VK2BOR

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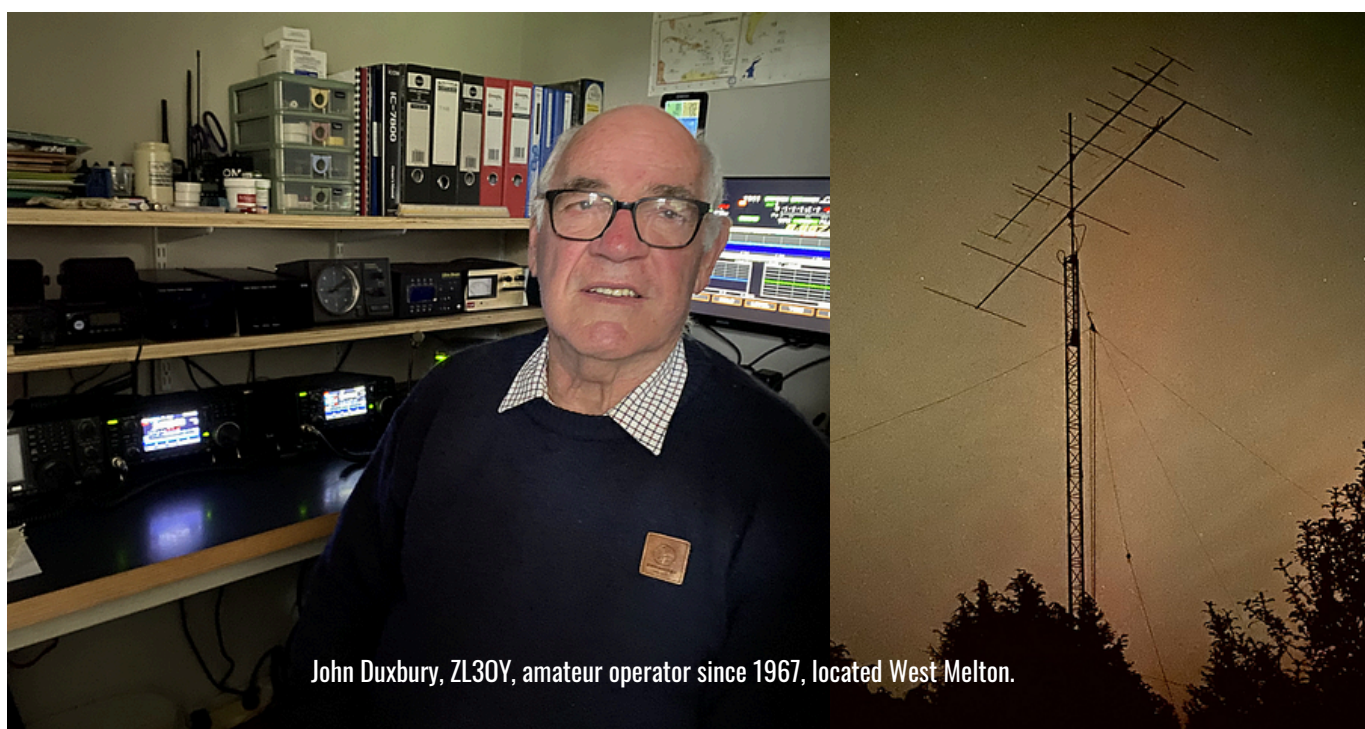
HAMS AND THEIR SHACKS



My passion is AM, SSB, CW; building and restoring stuff, Valves and Solid State.

Antenna wise I have a double extended Zepp (DEZ) for 80m and a 4el yagi for 10, 15 and 20m.

Nic VK7WW



John Duxbury, ZL30Y, amateur operator since 1967, located West Melton.



PRS in New Zealand: Growing Interest in Licence-Free Radio

I've been watching the Personal Radio Service (PRS) community in New Zealand grow steadily over the past year, and I have to say, it's refreshing to see more people discovering the value of licence-free communication. As someone who's been involved in radio for years, I'm genuinely excited about where this is heading.

For those unfamiliar, PRS operates on UHF frequencies and requires no individual licence to own or operate. It's accessible, affordable, and practical—perfect for everyday communication whether you're hiking, boating, working on a farm, or coordinating with friends during outdoor adventures. Unlike amateur radio, which requires study and licensing, PRS is truly plug-and-play.

What's particularly encouraging is the growing quality of equipment available in New Zealand. Manufacturers are producing more reliable, feature-rich radios that rival equipment from just a few years ago at half the price. Retailers like Techoman and others are stocking better inventory, and the community is becoming more informed about proper usage and etiquette.

The RSM (Radio Spectrum Management) has maintained clear guidelines for PRS operation, which provides certainty for users. We also have the older 26 MHz Citizens Band frequencies available for those interested in that slice of radio history. Both services coexist peacefully, each serving different needs.

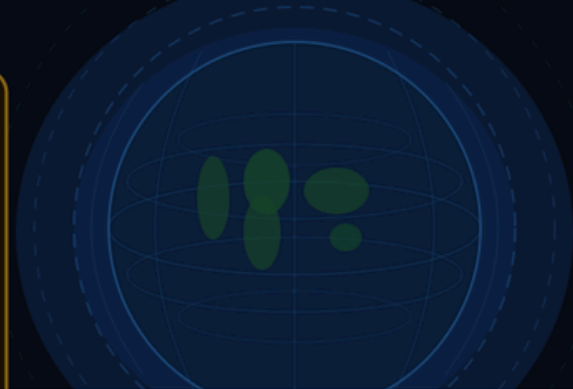
I've noticed more organized PRS groups forming, particularly among outdoor enthusiasts, emergency services volunteers, and rural communities. These groups are sharing knowledge about equipment, best practices, and frequency usage. It's community-driven and organic—exactly how it should be.

The challenge ahead is maintaining responsible usage and ensuring people understand the regulations. Not everyone realizes that PRS has specific power limits and frequency restrictions, and we need to keep the bands clean for everyone.

As PRS continues to grow in New Zealand, I'm optimistic about its future. It fills a genuine communication need, and with more people discovering its value, I expect we'll see continued growth in the community.

Greg
73 and good PRS!

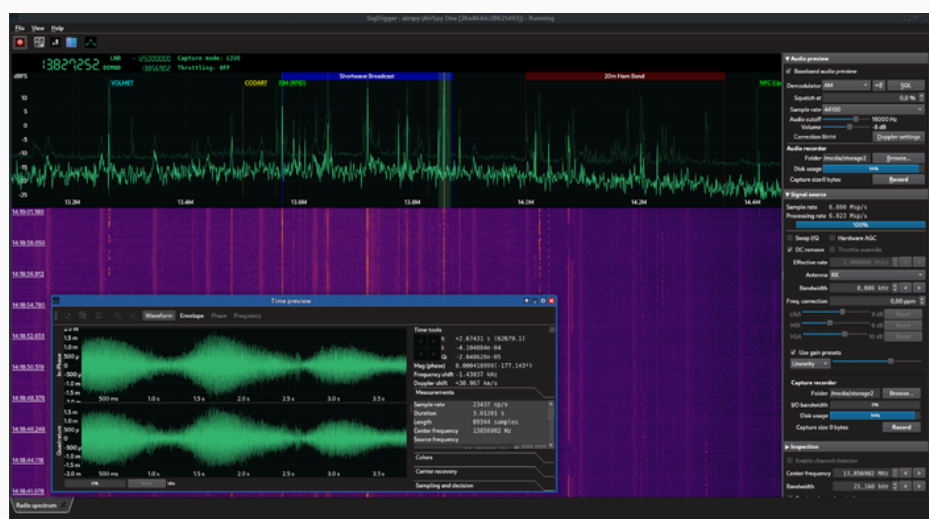




REGULAR COLUMN The Shortwave Listener

SigDigger - A free digital signal analyzer

SigDigger is a Qt5 digital signal analyzer written in C/C++ that runs in GNU/Linux, macOS and Windows. Unlike existing alternatives, SigDigger is not based on GNU Radio. Instead, it uses its own DSP library (sigutils) and a realtime signal analysis library (Suscan) that exploits multicore CPUs to distribute load. Also, SigDigger supports most SDR devices in the market thanks to SoapySDR. Sigutils, Suscan and SigDigger are software libre, licensed under the terms of the General Public License version 3.



BatchDrake

Hacking, HAM Radio (EA1IYR), DSP, physics
and more

Current features

- GNU/Linux, macOS and Windows support
- OpenGL-enhanced spectrum and waterfall
- Both realtime and replay analysis modes
- Analog mono audio playback (AM, FM, LSB and USB)
- Baseband recording (full spectrum and per-channel)
- Per-device gain presents
- Dynamic spectrum browsing
- ASK, FSK and PSK inspection
- Gradient-descent SNR calculation
- Different spectrum sources (cyclostationary analysis, signal power...)
- Symbol recording and visualization
- Doppler analysis
- Filename-based raw file parameter guessing
- Transition analysis
- Interactive Panoramic Spectrum view
- Waveform inspection window, including burst detection and limited off-line demodulation support
- Signal source decimation
- Bandplan information
- Audio channel recorder
- Blind parameter estimation
- Network broadcast of demodulated channel data
- UDP broadcast of received samples and demodulated symbols
- Spectrum integrator (for radioastronomy enthusiasts like me!)
- Fast symbol autocorrelation analysis
- Analog TV demodulation
- SGDP4-based frequency correction (by means of TLE files)
- Subcarrier inspection

60 metres

The quiet achiever of HF

Propagation · New allocations · Emergency comms · Digital modes

5351.5 – 5366.5 kHz

Solar Cycle 25 · Post-maximum

60 Metres — June Update

Exploring the Unique Propagation Characteristics of 5 MHz

The 60-meter band (5 MHz) continues to be one of the most interesting and rewarding bands for amateur radio operators in New Zealand and Australia. As we head into June 2026, it's an excellent time to explore what makes this band special and how to make the most of it during the winter months.

Propagation Characteristics for June

During June, the 60-meter band will exhibit some interesting propagation characteristics as we transition into the Southern Hemisphere winter:

Daytime Propagation

During the daytime hours, the 60-meter band will support reliable propagation to distances of approximately 500-1500 kilometers. This makes it ideal for reaching other Australian states from New Zealand, or connecting across the Tasman Sea. The band will be particularly good for reaching eastern Australia from New Zealand, with consistent signals throughout the day.

European propagation will be possible during the morning hours (0600-1000 UTC), though this will depend on favorable ionospheric conditions. These openings will be more sporadic than on the 40-meter band but can provide excellent opportunities for those monitoring the band.

Evening and Night Propagation

As evening approaches, the 60-meter band will transition to excellent regional propagation. The band will remain open for communications within the Southern Hemisphere throughout the night, with particularly strong signals to nearby stations. This makes 60 meters an excellent choice for evening nets and casual operating.

Longer-distance propagation to Europe and North America will be possible during the evening and early morning hours, though these openings will be less dramatic than on the 40-meter band. However, the quieter nature of the band means you may work stations with weaker signals than you would on the busier 40-meter band.

Winter Advantages

June's winter conditions will provide several advantages for 60-meter operation:

Stable Propagation: Winter brings more stable ionospheric conditions, resulting in more predictable propagation patterns. This makes it easier to plan operating sessions and expect consistent results.

Reduced Atmospheric Noise: The cooler temperatures and reduced thunderstorm activity during winter result in lower atmospheric noise levels, making weak signals easier to copy on this relatively quiet band.

Extended Operating Windows: The longer nights of winter mean extended evening and early morning operating windows, providing more opportunities to work distant stations.

Favorable Seasonal Patterns: The angle of the sun during winter creates propagation paths that favor communications with Europe and North America, making these regions more accessible than during other seasons.

Looking Ahead

As we move through June 2026, keep an eye on the 60-meter band. With stable solar conditions and favorable winter propagation, the band will provide excellent opportunities for both casual operating and serious DX work. The band's unique characteristics make it a rewarding place to spend your operating time.

73 and good DX on 60 meters!

This update is based on typical June propagation patterns and current solar predictions. Actual conditions may vary based on solar activity and geomagnetic disturbances. Always check your local regulations for frequency allocations and operating guidelines before transmitting on the 60-meter band.



MORSE CODE - STORIES

CARYN KD2GUT

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

Invisible Threads

Radio is not a solitary activity; it is a reminder that we are tied to one another and to history by invisible threads.

When our world was in turmoil in a conflict that would later become The Great War, wireless technology was just starting to emerge. Tesla, Marconi and the German company Telefunken were in the process of piecing together ways each could harness unseen forces on the electromagnetic landscape. Each did it in their own way, competitively and for their own clear purposes.

I am tied to this chapter in particular, not just as a radio amateur and CW operator but because I make my home in the New York landscape not far from where this particular drama unfolded. Less than an hour east of my QTH, in a community known as Sayville, a mix of science, espionage, conflict and codes shaped a hidden history unfolding on the threshold of the first World War. Invisible threads, all of them.

It is no accident, then, that in recent years a local producer turned his cameras and bright lights on the story in "Invisible Threads: From Wireless to War," a two-hour documentary.

While this reminds us of the unseen weaving that connects us in QSOs and bind us to the past, the threads in the context of the film were more perilous: The Sayville address that is the focus of much of the narrative was quietly being transformed into a German wireless site that became the epicenter of a spy network. True to espionage, its mystery at the time remained just that – a mystery. Over time, of course, history unraveled it. Now it is here for all to see.

No doubt there are now less forbidding dramas going on, hidden from sight, including the so-called "stealth antennas" deployed by ham radio operators living in restrictive housing developments. Yes, sometimes it is truly better to be unseen.

This film, however, ties it all up with threads that are now as visible as can be – and under the bright lights before the cameras. The story can be seen on some streaming platforms. If you watch it, see it with a radio friend. After all, radio – and radio history – is not something we do alone.

CARYN
KD2GUT





ALL MODE: SSB, AM, FM, CW, RTTY, FT8
 FREQUENCY RX 100 KHZ TO 2 GHZ
 TX ITU REGION
 AUTOMATIC ANTENNA TUNER
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Unit: mm

YOUR POTA SOLUTION FOR HF OR VHF SSB

INCLUDES CLIP ON BATTERY



LOTS OF STOCK

All accessories in stock: Portable antennas HF & VHF/UHF,
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Branch 80

Amateur Radio USED EQUIPMENT & MARKET DAY

St John Ambulance Hall • 36 Silverdale Street, Silverdale



13th June 2026

Vendors from 8am • Public 10am • \$2 Entry

Tables for Vendors @ \$20 each



hibiscuscoastradiosociety@gmail.com



**FOOD AND HOT OR
COLD DRINKS AVAILABLE**





I finally made the pilgrimage. After years of watching the livestreams, reading the wrap-ups and telling myself "next year," I packed my bags and flew to Ohio for the 2026 Dayton Hamvention. Three days later, I can say without hesitation — it was worth every hour of travel.

The theme this year was "Radio Adventure," celebrating the spirit of exploration across technologies, distances, and citizen science — and from the moment I arrived at the Greene County Expo Center in Xenia, that spirit was palpable everywhere I looked.

Friday opened with a buzz. I spent the morning at the HamSCI Forum, which covered ionospheric disturbances and the results of recent solar eclipse experiments — genuinely fascinating stuff, and a reminder that amateur radio sits at the intersection of hobby and hard science. The afternoon was spent losing myself across the flea market — one of the largest in the world, with over 2,000 spaces — hunting for vintage gear and rare components. I came away with a barely-used SWR meter and a pristine 1970s QSL card collection for almost nothing.



Saturday was the headline day. Showers and occasional downpours popped up on and off, sending flea market shoppers periodically fleeing inside to dry out — but the wet weather did nothing to dampen spirits. I attended the ARRL Membership Forum, where CEO David Minster, NA2AA, gave a compelling update on ARRL's "Pass the Bill" efforts to prevent homeowners associations from banning amateur radio antennas, noting that the letter-writing campaign had generated more than 150,000 letters. The spectrum defence discussion around high-speed stock traders eyeing spectrum adjacent to the 20-metre band was sobering — and a reminder that our hobby needs active guardians.

A Saturday highlight was the ARRL Youth Rally, with around 30 young hams taking part in a hidden transmitter hunt, a Morse code introduction by the Long Island CW Club, and a Youth Rally Sprint — seven HT-equipped teams roaming the grounds making contacts. Seeing young operators so engaged was genuinely inspiring.

Sunday's early thunderstorm left the flea market a little muddy, but the final day featured packed forums including multiple sessions on Parks on the Air and public service communications. The event closed with the major prize drawings and the announcement that Hamvention 2027 is already in the works.

The Amateur of the Year award went to Jose "Otis" Vicens, NP4G, while the Technical Achievement Award was presented to Robert Famiglio, K3RF — nearly six decades in the hobby and still contributing. The Club of the Year honour went to the Long Island CW Club.

For any ham who hasn't made the trip — put Hamvention on your bucket list. There is nothing else like it on earth.



3Y0J BOUVET ISLAND DXPEDITION JAN/ FEB 2023



Amateur of the Year Award: Dr. Jose “Otis” Vicens, NP4G

Dr. Jose “Otis” Vicens, NP4G, was born and raised in Humacao, Puerto Rico. He was first licensed at the age of 16 and is the only amateur radio operator in his family.

Vicens studied biology at Purdue University, where he became active with the W9YB Purdue University Amateur Radio Club. He graduated from the University of Puerto Rico School of Dental Medicine and completed a specialty program in Pediatric Dentistry at Brookdale University Hospital and Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York. In 2008, Vicens returned to his hometown of Humacao to begin practicing orthodontics.

One of his early memories of service through amateur radio was in 1998, when Vicens helped provide communications support in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Georges. During the 2017 Puerto Rico hurricane disasters, he helped coordinate amateur radio emergency communications across eastern Puerto Rico.

Vicens recalled attending the DX Forum at Dayton Hamvention, where presentations on major DXpeditions inspired him to someday be a part of future adventures. He has now participated in many DXpeditions from all over the world including Bouvet Island (3Y) and most recently as Team Leader for KP5/NP3VI, the Desecheo Island DXpedition of 2026.

He is a past President of the Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League (PRARL), and President of the International DX Association (INDEXA).



click for link to Jose's QRZ page www.qrz.com/db/NP4G

WHERE ARE ALL THE ZL AND VK YL OPERATORS





CLICK FOR LINK

Watch Now

CLICK FOR LINK

Hi everyone,

Most of you reading this are already licensed, already on the air, and already know just how enjoyable amateur radio can be. But we all started somewhere, and for many people looking in from the outside, ham radio can seem a bit complicated, technical, or even intimidating.

That's exactly why I made this week's video: [80% of Ham Radio Basics in 14 Minutes](#)

So, if you've got a friend, family member, colleague, neighbour, or club newcomer who has ever asked "what actually is ham radio?", this is the video to send them.

I'd also love to hear how you got started in amateur radio, so please leave a comment on the video or email in with your story.

PS This weekend is a bank holiday! It's looking to be a scorcher but please note we'll be closed on Monday. We open again bright and breezy at 8.30am on Tuesday.

73

David Millward
M0TPT - Purchasing Manager



Finding Amateur Radio

I first came across amateur radio when I was at the Blenheim farmers market in 2025. The tall antennas caught my attention and reminded me of when I worked on a WISP (Wireless Internet Service Provider) network back when I was in Auckland. Greg Barton (ZL2GBX) was running the stall and introduced me to the world of Amateur Radio, showcasing WinLink and Meshtastic. He signed me up for the HamCram and put me in touch with George (ZL2GTI) who coached me through studying for the exam and gave me more information on the local Meshtastic network.

After I got my ticket I was fairly dormant on the radio front till George helped me get my first radio, a UHF/VHF handheld. With this I was able to join the local Marlborough weekly club nets as well ones in Auckland and Brisbane.

The next big step was when I was introduced to HF while at the Jock White field day competition. Greg once again helped through the process of making my first HF QSOs and recording them in the log. One of the contacts I made through the competition was with another local radio operator Nick Batt (ZL2NEB), after the competition he kindly extended an offer to join him on an activation.

Nick organised my first "on the air" activation at Big Lagoon, which had yet to be activated on the LLOTA program. It was a great morning and we were chased by operators as far north as Ruakaka and as far south as Dunedin. Since then we have done more activations as is documented on Nick's YouTube channel: Work commitments called for a trip to Christchurch, giving a good excuse for a day of tramping and SOTA on the way up. And if one day trip is a good thing – surely two will be better.

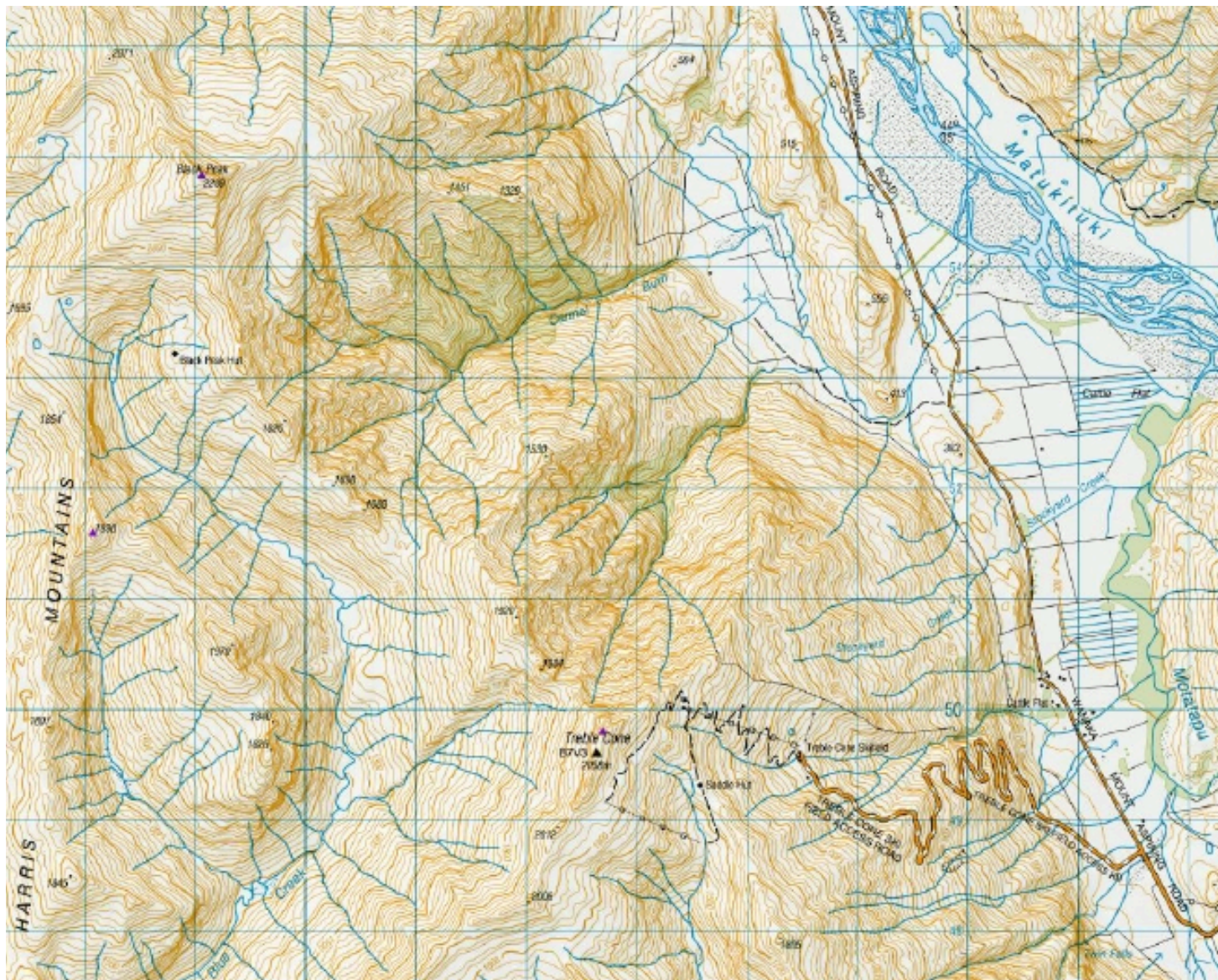
I've been keen to explore the ridgelines between the Ahuriri and Dingle, and the Ohau and Maitland for some time, and the need for 104 more points to reach SOTA Mountain Goat status by the end of the year gave the excuse to nose around these 8-point ridgelines..

This has hooked me on to HF and I am now working on setting up my own HF station at home and chasing other activations and hopefully will be able to do some on my own.

Cheers,
Jed
ZL2BTN

Treble Cone, Black Peak – Matukituki Valley (ZL3/OT-040, ZL3/OT-105)

With January coming to a close it was time to put some effort in if I was going to hit my goal of one 10-pointer per month in 2022. Starting easy and local I decided to take a look at Black Peak – just north of the Treble Cone skifield above the Matukituki Valley near Wanaka. The simplest access is from Treble Cone Skifield, mostly on public (DOC) land with a section of the ridgeline on Branches Station for which DOC inform me individual permission is not required.



The skifield access road is open most of the year, apart from during pre- and post- season maintenance windows. You need to complete an online H&S induction to get the access code. See <http://www.treblecone.com> for details.

The access road takes you to the main ski base at 1250m, leaving a simple, but long 800m climb to the Treble Cone summit – all but the last 100m on ski trails. The highpoint itself is craggy, but between it and the trig point is a flat enough area to activate from.

As I was running late – I didn't hit the skifield until midday, I passed up on Treble Cone and carried straight on towards Black Peak. The summit of Treble Cone gives a good view of the route, and for the most part it's a straight forward scramble. Two 'crux' points exist.



The first is the saddle between Treble Cone and pt1904, where a very exposed steep scramble takes you from the saddle round pt1904. The route has been bolted and fixedroped, but the ropes were frayed (one broken) and one bolt had pulled out and was hanging off the rope when I visited. Not confidence-inspiring stuff. Thankfully the rope is only needed for about one 10m section, and provides reassurance for the rest, and I managed the crossing with minimum reliance on it. The alternative is a straight forward 400m descent of the valley dropping west from the saddle to about 1550m, from where you can sidle out of the gully and sidle the face at that height for 2km to the next saddle north. Probably a better idea!



There was water at the saddle with pt1680 when I passed: welcome. A couple of scree scrambles take you NW from the saddle over pts 1680 and 1826. The remainder of the narrow ridgeline can be travelled on it's very narrow apex, or sidles to the west. Black Peak Hut, 1km to the west, is private, in Branches Station land, and seems to be used by guiding companies.

The ascent to Black Peak was straight forward with a little snow present. The last 20m would be a rocky climb without a snowbank to use. Guides indicate swinging west onto the SW spur in that case.

I

I had not alerted specifically for Black Peak as I had low confidence in the route, but despite that managed 8 easy contacts on 40m and 20m. 20m conditions were the best I've had from a peak in a while.



The return, as always, was easier than the outward trip, only the gnarly section seemed harder left-handed than right! 7pm saw me back on the summit fo Treble Cone for a second activation of the day – only 7 hours later than alerted. 40M was cluttered with DX but we managed 8 contacts including three VKs.



Back towards Wanaka from Treble Cone skifield. Effects of Glendhu Bluffs fire clearly visible.

Matt Briggs
ZL4NVW



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We have started to release some of the VK Summit video presentations at the VK Summit web site. The first are Icom with a great story and, Comtek featuring remote communications with Flex Radio. Find them at <https://www.vksummit.au/tech-talk-videos>.

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**The Bendigo RadioFest
Sunday October 11th
BAREC clubrooms
36 Lansell St., East Bendigo**





QTC May 2026 Now available.

Link in the first comment.

In this Issue:

- We wrap up the 10th Antennapalooza event
- A Gippsland company is building remotely controlled military vehicles
- Read about the pending Lord Howe Island DXpedition
- Navigating the VK Regulations maze
- RASA visits the Caboolture Radio Club
- Latest from the CW Academy
- RASA Strategic Planning meeting for 2026

It's free for everyone to read...

<https://vkradioamateurs.org/qtc-magazine/#qtc-may-2026/1>

Amateur Radio in Southern Africa: Growing Connections Across the Continent

I've been fortunate to work with amateur radio operators across Southern Africa, and I can tell you that the hobby is experiencing a genuine renaissance in this region. From South Africa to Botswana to Zimbabwe, there's a palpable energy and commitment to building stronger communities through radio.

The South African Radio League (SARL) continues to be the backbone of amateur radio in the region, fostering growth and supporting operators across the country. What's particularly encouraging is their ambitious agenda to expand amateur radio into less-developed parts of the continent. This isn't just about the hobby—it's about providing reliable communication infrastructure where it's desperately needed.

Kenya's selection to host the 2026 ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) programme is a significant achievement for Africa as a whole. As the only African country chosen, it demonstrates the continent's growing importance in the global amateur radio community. This recognition will undoubtedly inspire young operators throughout Southern Africa to pursue the hobby and explore space communications.

The regulatory landscape is evolving too. Zimbabwe's POTRAZ (Postal & Telecommunications Regulatory Authority) is working with the amateur radio community to clarify licensing requirements, which is helping new operators understand the pathway to getting on the air. These kinds of regulatory clarifications are essential for growth.

What strikes me most is the spirit of cooperation across borders. Operators in South Africa, Botswana, and Zimbabwe regularly work each other on the HF bands, sharing knowledge and experiences. The QSL bureau network, despite occasional challenges, continues to connect operators across vast distances.

The future looks bright for amateur radio in Southern Africa. With SARL's leadership, growing regulatory support, and an enthusiastic community of operators committed to expanding the hobby, I'm confident we'll see continued growth. The continent has so much potential, and amateur radio is playing an increasingly important role in connecting people and communities.

73 from Southern Africa!





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4X6TT: A LIFETIME ON THE AIR

From a simple wire antenna to rare DX locations, world contest stations, Australia, New Zealand, and a historic friendship with King Hussein of Jordan

Editor - Thanks Amir for replying to my email and sending me the article and photos

By Amir Bazak, 4X6TT

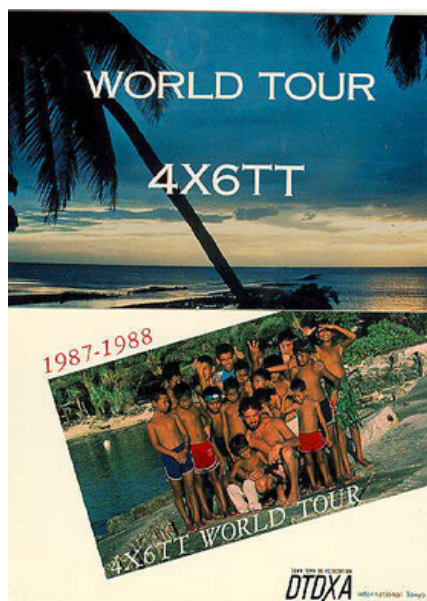
Some people discover amateur radio as a technical hobby. I discovered it as a doorway. Through a receiver, a simple antenna, and later through my own call sign, the world became closer, friendlier, and far more interesting than any map could show. Radio gave me voices from distant countries, but more importantly, it gave me people. It gave me friendships, invitations, adventures, and moments that no ordinary tourist could ever experience.

My first steps were simple. There was no impressive tower, no expensive station, and no perfect antenna farm. Like many young operators, I began with curiosity, patience, and whatever equipment I could put together. I remember the magic of tuning across the bands and hearing signals rise out of the noise. Every voice felt like proof that distance was not really distance. With a little wire, some knowledge, and enough determination, a young ham in Israel could reach across the world.

That feeling never left me. The first antenna I built was basic, made from wires and placed wherever I could make it work. It was not beautiful, but it worked, and that was enough. The first contacts were unforgettable because each one carried a sense of discovery. A call sign in the log was not just a call sign. It was a person, a place, a story, and sometimes the beginning of a friendship that would last for decades.

As I became more active, I learned that amateur radio rewards both technical skill and human character. You can have the finest equipment in the world, but if you do not listen, if you do not respect the other operator, and if you do not understand the discipline of good operating, you miss the real beauty of the hobby. Radio taught me patience, timing, humility, and the importance of clear communication. It also taught me that the best operators are not always the loudest. They are the ones who know how to listen.

After my service in the Israel Defense Forces, I wanted to take amateur radio beyond the home station. I wanted to operate from places that had a special meaning on the map and a special sound on the air. Travel and radio became connected in my mind. I was not only looking for countries to visit. I was looking for places where a signal from my station could create excitement for operators thousands of miles away.



Around 1985, before the Greek island trip, I was invited to Cyprus by Andreas Mavridis, 5B4LP, from Nicosia, to take part in the CQ World Wide international contest. That was my first serious contest, and it opened my eyes to a different side of amateur radio. Contesting requires discipline, speed, teamwork, accuracy, and the ability to stay sharp when the bands are full and the pressure is on. We achieved a very high world placing, and for me it was a turning point. I understood that amateur radio could be adventure, friendship, and also serious competition at the highest level.

In 1986, that dream took me to Greece for an island hopping trip. Greece had always been close to my heart, with its atmosphere, music, food, and unforgettable islands. Through amateur radio, the trip became much more than tourism. I met local hams, operated from beautiful locations, and learned again how easily radio people become friends. One of the memorable stops was Zakynthos, where I stayed with George SV8RX and his wife. Their warmth and hospitality showed me something I would see again and again around the world: hams open doors that would otherwise stay closed.



Throughout the years, contest operating also gave me the privilege of being invited as an operator to some of the most powerful and famous contest stations in the world. In Curitiba, Brazil, I operated from ZW5B after being invited by the well known PY5EG, Mr. Atilano Holmes. I remain grateful to him for the invitation and the hospitality. More recently, I traveled several times to Estonia to operate from ES9C, probably one of the largest contest stations in the Northern Hemisphere. My thanks also go to Tono, ES5TV, for his outstanding hospitality and friendship. These experiences are difficult to describe fully. You operate world class stations, but more importantly, you meet world class people.

The more I traveled, the more I understood the special power of this hobby. Amateur radio is one of the few communities where a call sign can be stronger than a passport. Before arriving in a country, I could speak to local operators on the air. When I arrived, they were no longer strangers. They were hosts, guides, teachers, and often lifelong friends.

My first major world journey grew from that same spirit. The tour lasted more than three years and took me through many countries and many stations. In the United Kingdom, Ian G4LJF and his wife Ursula welcomed me with unforgettable kindness. From there the road continued east, including Thailand, where I had the rare opportunity to operate from HS0B. At that time, Thailand was a highly desired contact for many DXers, and operating from there placed me on the other side of the pileup. It was demanding, exciting, and a serious lesson in handling pressure on the air.

From Hong Kong I was invited to Macau by Jose XX9JN and his family. I operated as XX9TTT, and what was planned as a short visit became much more. Jose encouraged me to stay longer and operate more, and the pileups were intense. Macau was rare, the demand was huge, and every hour at the station reminded me why DXing creates such passion. For the operators calling, it was a needed contact. For me, it was another lesson in responsibility. When you are the rare station, you are not operating only for yourself. You are giving thousands of people a chance to complete something important to them.

The journey continued to the Philippines, where I visited Cotabato City in Mindanao and operated from the station of Robin Go, DU9RG. Robin was a well known and respected operator, and his station was impressive. But again, the equipment was only part of the story. The real memory was the hospitality of Robin, his family, and the local community. Amateur radio gave me access not only to a station, but to a culture, a home, and people I would never have met otherwise.

South Korea and Japan added more unforgettable chapters. In Seoul, I operated from HL0B during the period leading up to the 1988 Olympic Games, a time when the city was full of energy. In Japan, I experienced a level of organization, respect, and warmth that deeply impressed me. Japanese hams welcomed me with great enthusiasm, and I still remember the feeling of arriving and seeing people who knew me first through my call sign. It was one more reminder that a signal can travel ahead of you and prepare friendships before you even land.





Australia holds a very special place in that story. I visited and stayed for more than a week with Ian Williams, VK3MO, and his wife on their beautiful farm. They hosted me like family, although we had never met before and had never even seen a photograph of each other. We only knew each other by voice, through radio.

That detail may sound simple today, but in the late 1980s it meant everything. There was no internet, no WhatsApp, no Facebook, no instant photo exchange, and no easy way to identify someone before arrival. When Ian came to pick me up at the airport, we had to recognize each other the old way, by instinct, by expectation, and almost by the sound of the voice we had heard through the radio. That moment was funny, human, and unforgettable.

Staying with Ian and his family was one of those experiences that explains amateur radio better than any technical lecture could. I was not treated as a visitor. I was treated as a friend who had finally arrived. On his amazing farm, I also had the opportunity to operate from VK3MO, an extraordinary station with one of the most impressive antenna farms in the Southern Hemisphere. For a DXer, it was like standing inside a dream. The station, the antennas, the open space, and the friendship around it made Australia one of the most memorable stops of my life.

New Zealand followed naturally from that connection. With Ian VK3MO's recommendation, I flew to Auckland and stayed for about a week, perhaps more, with Pat ZL1AXB and his children and family. They were simply amazing. Once again, amateur radio did what it had done for me so many times before. It turned a call sign into a home, a voice into a family, and a contact into a lasting memory.

Australia and New Zealand were especially meaningful because of the strength and quality of the amateur radio communities there. The landscapes were different, the accents were different, and the operating conditions were different, but the spirit was familiar. Curiosity, generosity, and the desire to connect were everywhere. For readers in Australia and New Zealand, I can say this with complete sincerity: my memories from your part of the world are among the warmest in my amateur radio life.

The South Pacific became another world entirely. Lord Howe Island, Fiji, Tuvalu, Western Samoa, American Samoa, Wallis and Futuna, and later Hawaii gave me some of the most exciting operating memories of my life. In Tuvalu I set up a Butternut vertical antenna close to the water and operated from a location that many hams considered a dream contact. There is something special about being on a small island, hearing the ocean nearby, and listening to the world call you through the headphones. The pileups can be exhausting, but they are also a privilege.

Those trips taught me that a DXpedition is not just about radios and antennas. It is about preparation, stamina, problem solving, and respect for the place and the people hosting you. You learn to carry only what matters. You learn to fix things with what you have. You learn that propagation does not care about your plans. Most of all, you learn that the operator at the other end may have waited years for that one contact, so you owe him your best effort.

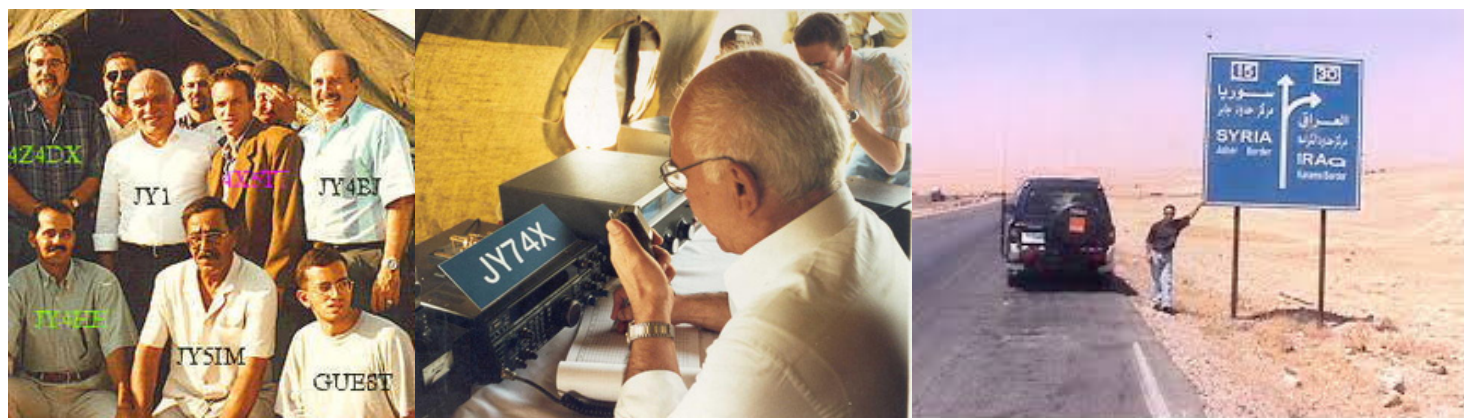


There were many other countries, stations, and hams along the way. A single magazine article is not long enough to list them all. As we would say on the radio, HI HI. But every visit added something to the story. Some gave me rare QSOs. Some gave me technical lessons. The best ones gave me friends.

When I returned to Israel after years of travel, I came home with more than logbooks. I came back with friendships, stories, and a deeper understanding of what amateur radio can do. I had seen the hobby connect people across oceans, languages, cultures, and political boundaries. But even after all those rare islands and distant stations, one story would stand above all the others.

That story began late one Friday night when I was tuning the bands from Israel. I found a tremendous pileup and realized that the station being called was His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan, JY1. For any radio amateur, this was already extraordinary. For an Israeli operator at that moment in history, it was almost unbelievable. I listened, then joined the activity, and what followed became one of the defining moments of my life in amateur radio.

King Hussein was not just a famous call sign. He was a real operator, a man who loved radio and understood its human value. Through radio, we spoke across a political border that had meant separation for so long. The contact was not only technical. It carried emotion, respect, and a sense that the airwaves could do something governments often struggle to do: allow people to speak directly, human to human.



Over time, that contact became much more than a radio memory. His Majesty became a personal friend. I do not use those words lightly. After the special operation and especially after the Mount Nebo expedition, he invited me, my wife, and my children to the palace. We spent about a week in Jordan, traveling, sightseeing, and visiting historical places. For me and for my family, it was an experience that went far beyond amateur radio. It was a personal friendship with a remarkable man who happened also to be a king.

After peace was signed between Israel and Jordan, another dream became possible. I wanted to visit Jordan and become the first Israeli ham radio operator to operate from the Kingdom. Through my contacts with Jordanian hams and the Royal Jordanian Amateur Radio Society, the invitation came. The visit was quiet at first, because the peace process was still new and sensitive, but the meaning was enormous.

The dream reached its peak at Mount Nebo, a place of deep historical and biblical significance. The operation there was a joint effort between Israeli and Jordanian hams. King Hussein's role in Mount Nebo should be understood correctly. He was the one who gave his blessing to the entire operation. That blessing made the activation possible and gave it a meaning far beyond a normal radio event. For me, Mount Nebo was not only a point on a map. It was a symbol. Israeli and Jordanian hams were sitting together, operating together, laughing together, and showing that radio could become a bridge.

The activation itself was unforgettable. The pileups were heavy, the excitement was constant, and the atmosphere was unlike anything I had experienced before. Every contact carried more than a signal report. It carried the feeling that something historic was happening in the language all of us understood: radio. We were not politicians. We were hams. But sometimes hams can show the world a very simple truth, that people who speak directly to each other can become friends.

The hospitality that followed left a deep mark on me. My memories of JY1 are not only memories of a king. They are memories of a fellow ham and a personal friend, a man who understood that a microphone and an antenna can sometimes carry more than a signal. They can carry trust, dignity, and goodwill.

Looking back, I see my amateur radio life as one long QSO with the world. It began with curiosity and simple equipment. It became a journey through islands, countries, contests, pileups, friendships, and moments of history. The call sign 4X6TT has taken me into homes, clubs, stations, farms, palaces, and places I could never have reached alone.

For newcomers, my message is simple: do not think of amateur radio only as equipment. The equipment matters, but it is only the tool. The real magic is what happens when a signal leaves your antenna and reaches another human being. That contact may last one minute, but it can open a door for life.

Amateur radio still has the power to excite a new generation. It offers science, geography, discipline, competition, emergency communication, international friendship, and adventure. In a world full of instant digital communication, radio still gives us something different. It asks us to listen. It asks us to learn. It asks us to earn the contact.

After all these years, I still feel that same excitement when I call CQ and wait for a reply. Somewhere, someone is listening. Somewhere, a new friendship may begin. That is the real story of my life in amateur radio.

73
Shalom
Amir 4X6TT



GARY & CAROL'S NORTH ISLAND POTA ADVENTURE

Stats:

97 individual sites activated

173 parks, lakes etc, activated from those 97 locations

2317 contacts made

North Island POTA Trip March , April, May 2026 Gary and Carol Lodge

Some people go on golfing holidays. Some people choose to cruise. As for us it seems we are POTA people. Parks On The Air- not just parks but lakes, huts and for the super fit people summits. We're not super fit.

We left our home in Blenheim in early March setting sail on a Bluebridge ferry for the North Island planning to be away for about 10 weeks.

Planning:

After weeks of pouring over ZL on the Air and Google maps Gary arrived at Plan A "Schedule of Activations". Annoyingly for him he was required to fit in our 50th wedding anniversary celebration with family, 2 weeks of school holiday time in Tauranga with our grand daughters and a couple of garden visits. ***Some readers may find it hard to believe that there is actually more to life than radio!***

Fortunately, Gary had plans B and C as his original plan A had not factored in ferry delays, weather events and Donald Trump causing fuel prices to rise astronomically. At one stage we even took a photo of a fuel pump showing how much a fill of diesel cost...

Back to the planning, Gary organised proposed activations into groups that would give him the most bang for his buck, Big Day Out days, these were multiple activations on the same day, preferably ones that would give him more than one just one park or lake. eg .a WWFF as well as a ZLP and a NZ Pota Park. Lakes on the Air (LLOTA)didn't come in to being until almost the end of our trip. Calculations also included travel time and distance on multiple activations. What's that about best laid plans? Well maps can be deceiving. They don't show locked gates and Private Property signs on supposedly public roads, tracks that end at the top of a cliff or a slip that happened just the night before.

In tandem with Gary's plan there was Carol's plan. This dealt with the more mundane matters. Where to camp? Where to fill up with water? Fuel stops? Groceries etc. Favourite cafes. Friends to visit. So much to do not enough time!



The basic itinerary was Wellington, Whanganui, Tongariro National Park, Hamilton, Tauranga, Taupo, Napier then down through Hastings and Pahiatua and back to Wellington. Throughout our trip we were extremely lucky with weather conditions except for the two weeks when we were in Tauranga. Lousy school holiday weather and also not good for radio. Rain. Wind. Thunder. Lightening.

Then there was Cyclone Vaianu. That had definitely not been in Gary's plan. The streets of Mount Maunganui were eerily quiet, everyone was mindful of the tragedy that unfolded after the storms in January in which 6 people died. No one was taking chances with this cyclone, also half the population was on the beach watching massive waves and eating ice cream- very Kiwi. At the suggestion of our son's boss we relocated our caravan from a beach side campsite to the relative shelter of their landscaping yard in an industrial area of town.



Techie Stuff:

Icom 7100

Icom 705 wt. 1.1 kg

G90 wt.1.6 Kg

Heil HTH-1 headphones

7 metre Sota Pole wt. 1.3 Kg

40/20 Sota antenna wt. 0.4 kg

10 metre Spiderbeam pole wt 2.3 Kg

Multi band Spiderbeam antenna wt. 0.4kg

Super Antenna as back up

1x 7 amp hr lithium lightweight battery wt 0.9kg

1x12 amp hr lightweight battery

Carry bag wt. 1.2 kg

Total weight for QRP activations including tablet, water bottle and headphones does not exceed 6 kg

Aluminium 7 metre pole set for use in windy conditions

Tablet for electronic logging in the field. POLO is our preferred logging programme, files are in ADIF format and are easy to upload onto ZL On The Air and POTA websites.

Waterproof notebook and pencil for logging in wet conditions

Sticky Post -it notes with our activating park name and id on it

Laminated activation schedule for additions, deductions ,notes and results.





Setting up(Gary):

When we can we like to go QRP simply for the challenge of it and in recognition of so many other operators going QRP. As well ,getting into inaccessible off road areas adds to the sense of adventure .When not being QRP we mostly use either a SOTA pole or Spiderbeam pole with whatever antenna I plan to use and operate from the truck. Depending on location I tie the pole to my truck or whatever is handy, a fence post or bench or use guy ropes. If conditions are very windy I will use a set of aluminium poles with a plate under a wheel. In public areas collapsible cones avoid walkers and dogs stumbling over my set up. Not a good look.



Favourite Activations:

Hard to decide and in no particular order.

Horopito Scenic Reserve ZLP/MW-0266 and Horopito -Ohakune Rail Conservation Area ZLP/MW-0218 This 18 km trail known as Old Coach Road had been on our to do list for a long time and we had a perfect day for it, sunny, not too hot and no wind. We were dropped off at the start of the track by Kune Shuttles close to Horopito Motors of "Smash Palace "and "Hunt for the Wilderpeople "fame. Conveniently this was also our first activation site where we were on the air by 9.00 am. The second activation site was further along the track in the last open area before the track headed into deep bush. This is a great walk or cycle, ride with an easy gradient some of which is on the original cobbled coach road, excellent signage and views from railway viaducts which for their time were amazing feats of engineering.

Lake Wairarapa ZL/022 and more...

Lake Wairarapa is south of Masterton. We freedom camped lakeside for 3 nights. A beautiful spot from which to enjoy the lake in all of it's moods, from misty mornings to stropky, squally afternoons followed by stunning star filled dark skies at night.

Lake Wairarapa is a lake that just kept on giving. Beside the lake itself there were conservation areas, wildlife refuges, wetland and shoreline reserves and not far away Boggy Pond ZLP/0042. Who could possibly resist activating a Boggy Pond?

From Lake Wairarapa we activated Ocean Beach Conservation Area ZLP/WL -0062 at Wharekahau Beach. It's wild, it's remote , it's beautiful. Just a cluster of fishing huts, cliffs and the sea. It is hard to believe that at the top of the cliffs there is one of the world's top luxury lodges and golf courses...

Lake Rotokawa ZLL/0999, ZLFF/-001,ZLP/MW-0002, NZ-0031

This small tarn in Tongariro National Park on the Waitonga Falls Track is accessed off Ohakune Mountain Road. We had walked this track previously so on this occasion only walked as far as a board walk beside the lake where there is a handy seat to which we tied the Sota pole. Somewhat precariously as it was very windy. For a short time we had a perfect reflection of Mt. Ruapehu before icy rain rolled in.



Tongariro Conservation Area ZLP/MW-005 and 4 others

On the road between National Park and Turangi this very specky location has Mt.Ngaruhoe in the background (Mt.Doom to Lord of the Rings fans). Again, very windy.Coax and guy ropes all over the place! Note the t-shirt, intentional ,because so many people stop to talk and ask us what we are about, a T-shirt with a call sign gives both ID and a professional look.

Makuri Domain Reserve ZLP/MW-0258

Makuri is a small rural community to the east of Pahiatua, it has a school, a church and a domain which rather grandly calls itself Makuri Country Club. On this windy, wet,cold Saturday afternoon the cricket pitch is under water and even the magpies looked miserable. It also boasts a magnificent carved macrocarpa couch the logger person thought one like it might look good in our garden. We were there as part of a Big Day Out. We had already activated Makuri Gorge ZLP/MW-0092, Puketoi Conservation Area NZ-0405 and Pipinui Waterfall Scenic Reserve. On this day we made 123 contacts over 4 activations from Whangarei to Balclutha.

Te Whanganui- a - Orutu ZLL/1162

This was as strange site not far from the end of Napier Airport runway, picture a large flat sheep paddock with a water trough and a cycle trail running through it dominated by heritage harbour beacons. Note there was no danger of us being a hazard to low flying aircraft.

Raglan

We love Raglan. Closest beach to where we used to live in Te Awamutu. Fish and chips on the wharf, Raglan Roast Coffee and the best sunset of our trip. Not the best time though for radio work as propagation was poor throughout the country. This did not deter Gary from putting up an antenna at Wainui Bay Reserve ZLP/WK-0330 or assembling his Super antenna on the campsite playing field.

These are just a few of the places we visited and made radio contacts from. In the evenings from our caravan Gary participated in sprints and various local radio nets.

We realise how fortunate we are to have the time, opportunity and fitness to undertake a trip such as this. We live in a beautiful country with so many places to explore. Having a radio interest in POTA takes us beyond the walls of the shack and allows us to indulge our passions for radio, caravanning, bush walking, wilderness areas, photography and meeting people with similar interests.

Meeting people and putting faces to call signs has always been an important part of our trips and this one was no exception. In Taumaranui we made contact with Andre ZL2AWW and later went round to his place just down the road for a cuppa. In Hamilton Gary caught up with old friends from REG group NZART Branch 89.In Tauranga we had morning tea with a bunch of Bay Of Plenty radio enthusiasts, and in Napier we got to meet Blue ZL3TT . Further south in Otane we took advantage of ZL2VF's offer to park up overnight at his place, talk radio (and enjoy some very good wine). On the last leg of our trip we lunched with Eben ZL2EF.Thankyou everyone for your hospitality. We have also enjoyed meeting some of these operator's partners, family members and " 2nd operator doggy buddies." Lots of fun.

On a final note, when we were based in Raglan we had a Big Day Out planned which covered activations around Pirongia, Kawhia and Oparau. We had lived in this area for many years and were shocked at the extent of the damage caused by recent storms – there were slips, wash outs and un -notified road closures. The technical term used for the status of propagation at this time was "rubbish ", radio contact was patchy and these areas had no cell phone coverage. We had put out alerts beforehand of where we were going to be. After we had abandoned activations for all of the reasons mentioned and were back in cell phone coverage several people rang to check if we were OK. Kindness and concern is what being part of a radio community is all about and we are so pleased to be part of it. A huge thankyou goes to all those chasers and fellow activators who have been with us , made suggestions for other places to go and generally looked out for us over the past 10 weeks.

THANK
YOU! 😊

73

Gary Lodge ZL1GA , ZL1WL
Carol Lodge



Bay of Plenty guys coffee at Pacifica

On left hand side of table from rear
Andrew Race ZL1KN
Ian Hendy ZL1IM
Grant Gilbert ZL1GGL

Right hand side from rear
Rob Vile ZL2BB
Ian Hurlock ZL1HIM
Gary Lodge ZL1GA084536

Training, Radio, and Island Life on Mōtītī

Ian Hurlock — ZL1HIM

Recently I had the opportunity to travel to Mōtītī as part of a training exercise with Coastguard Maketū.

Although the island lies only around 12 kilometres offshore from my home in Maketū, this was my first opportunity to operate amateur radio from there — and, as far as I am aware, the first ZL On The Air activation conducted from Mōtītī itself under the designation ZLI/BP-009.

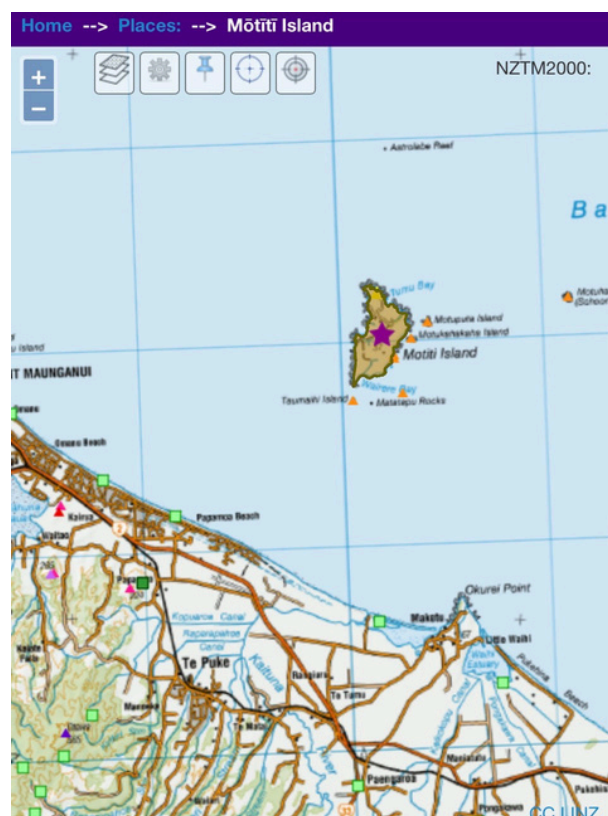


We stayed at Motiti Lodge, which provided a comfortable base for the trip. The lodge can be accessed by boat, followed by a short walk up from the breakwater, or by air via the island's landing area. The hospitality and facilities were outstanding, especially considering the island's remote location.

For the activation I used an FX-4CR transceiver from BG2FX, running 10W QRP into a scratch-built 49:1 transformer and EFHW antenna supported by a 7 metre Spiderbeam pole. The lightweight station was ideal for portable island operating and performed exceptionally well from the coastal location.

Operating portable from Mōtītī, the saltwater-enhanced takeoff made for excellent operating conditions. It was rewarding to hand out the ZLI/BP-009 designation to chasers, including a memorable DX contact with Larry, F5PYI.

Many thanks to the team at Motiti Lodge for making the stay such an enjoyable one, and thanks to all the chasers who called in during the activation.



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