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NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO

VOL. 8 MARCH 2026

Photograph Phil ZL3PAE

ZL1GUD at 6.30am - Jock White Field Day 2026

NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE

VOL. 7 FEBRUARY 2026 A Free Magazine with Product News, DIY and Interviews

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.

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

Greg
ZL1GUD

Note: Right click on text for link to website.

www.thehamshack.co.nz

This issue:

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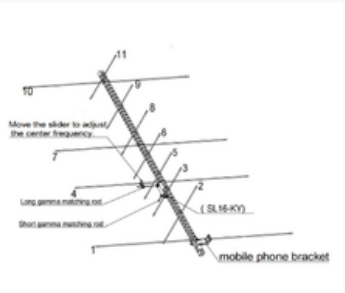
- Balun/Unun 1:1 4:1 9:1 49:1
- Linked dipoles 4 band or custom
- SWR meters
- Guohetec Antenna systems
- Antenna building components
- Mast anchors and guy rings
- Winders

and lots more.....



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Official agents for New Zealand & Australia

SOTABEAMS
AMATEUR RADIO FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS

From the Editor

"And so my fellow Radio Amateurs, ask not what the hobby can do for you, ask what you can do for amateur radio"

On a personal note at the February meeting of Branch 68 I was awarded Radio Amateur of the Year for my contribution promoting amateur radio. I really didn't expect this or even know there was an award.
Very honoured.

We are introducing some new sections at the end of the magazine, one of Short Wave Listening, one on PRS for emergencies and even one on CB

As JOHN F. KENNEDY: "And so my fellow Radio Amateurs, ask not what the hobby can do for you, ask what you can do for amateur radio" That is why I started this magazine. Apparently some folks predicted that it would die after a single edition, but here we are on edition No 8. I also believe that our cover photographs are excellent and share the atmosphere.

This weekend is the Jock White Field Day and we have been issued with Branch 92 for the event. Our plan is to get whoever wants to join to come down and give it a go. We are relaxed, all gear is set up and provided and log sheets are provided.

The second purpose is to prove that we can operate for extended periods using battery, solar panels and generators and be completely off-grid. We hope that if you are local you will join us.

73's

Greg

Another DX Pedition using Spiderbeam

www.thehamshack.co.nz

ALPINE FAULT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN

Alpine Fault
The Alpine Fault is the dominant geological feature of New Zealand's South Island. It is not a minor crack in the ground. It is a 600-kilometre tectonic boundary that slices along the western spine of the island and is responsible for building the Southern Alps. It is also one of the most studied and closely watched faults in the world.

A Plate Boundary in Action
The Alpine Fault marks the boundary between the Pacific Plate and the Australian Plate. Unlike the classic "subduction zone" faults that dive one plate under another, this is primarily a strike-slip fault — meaning the plates grind past each other horizontally. However, it also has a strong vertical component. The Pacific Plate is being pushed up and over the Australian Plate.

That sideways grinding plus upward thrust is what lifted the Southern Alps. The mountains are not ancient leftovers. They are being actively built today. In geological terms, this is fresh construction.

The Pacific Plate moves southwest relative to the Australian Plate at roughly 30 mm per year. That might not sound like much, but multiply that over centuries and millennia and you get massive strain accumulation. When that strain releases, it releases violently.

What a Major Rupture Would Look Like
A full rupture of the Alpine Fault would likely produce:
- A magnitude 8+ earthquake
- Intense ground shaking across the South Island
- Severe landslides in alpine regions
- River blockages and potential flooding
- Infrastructure damage across West Coast and Canterbury
- Widespread power and communication outages

Shaking would be strongest near the fault trace along the West Coast, but effects would extend far beyond. Cities like Christchurch, Queenstown, Hokitika, Greymouth, and even Wellington could experience significant shaking depending on rupture characteristics.

The biggest secondary hazard is landslides. The Southern Alps are steep, fractured, and heavily loaded with rainfall. Strong shaking would trigger thousands of slips. Roads could be cut in dozens of places simultaneously. River systems could be dammed by debris, creating temporary lakes with flood potential.

This is not dramatic fiction. It is the realistic scenario planning used by New Zealand's emergency management authorities.

Why It Matters
Unlike smaller, more frequent earthquakes that release strain in pieces, the Alpine Fault tends to rupture in long segments. That means energy builds up over centuries and is released in one enormous event.

For the South Island, this is the "big one."
Unlike the more complex fault network around Christchurch that caused the 2010–2011 earthquake sequence, the Alpine Fault is a single dominant structure. When it goes, it will likely rupture hundreds of kilometres in one event.

New Zealand is one of the few countries in the world where a major plate boundary runs directly through populated and economically critical areas.

Ongoing Research
The Alpine Fault is heavily instrumented. GPS networks measure plate movement down to millimetres. Seismic stations track micro-earthquakes. Geological trenching studies refine recurrence timing.

The Deep Fault Drilling Project provided rare direct samples from within the fault zone. These samples showed that the fault is relatively hot and fluid-rich at shallow depths — factors that may influence how rupture initiates and propagates.

Researchers are trying to answer key questions:
- Will the entire fault rupture at once, or in segments?
- How deep does rupture typically propagate?
- How much vertical displacement occurs per event?
- What role do fluids play in weakening the fault?

The Bottom Line
The Alpine Fault is one of the most significant active plate-boundary faults on Earth. It has a long record of major earthquakes, a clear pattern of recurrence, and a measurable build-up of tectonic strain.

It will rupture again.
The science is solid. The monitoring is advanced. The risk is real but understood.

For those living in the South Island, it is not a distant geological curiosity. It is the deep structural backbone of the land itself — slowly loading, patiently waiting, and inevitably destined to move again.

RADIO ELECTRONICS GROUP NEXT HAMCRAM AMATUER RADIO COURSE

Glenview Club, 211 Peacockes Rd, Hamilton .

18th -19 April 2026

Contact Chris Hattan

myzl1cjh@gmail.com

LIMITED SEATS ENROLL TODAY!

Pieter Schoonraad, ZL1PZ is one of NZ's newest Hams, only receiving his callsign about a week and a half ago.

Growing up in Pretoria, South Africa his fascination with all things radio began at the age of 10 while building hobby shop electronics kits. Especially starting out with small FM transmitters, op-amp preamps, and line amplifiers.

A former ambulance officer of 19 years in both South Africa and New Zealand. Six of which was at St John Ambulance in South Auckland, the challenges around emergency communication in New Zealand, especially in our varied, Hill country and mountainous terrain always interested him. He is quite keen to get involved with the local AREC in his area once he's moved into his property.

He is currently employed as an electrical inspector at the University of Waikato after a terminal illness and subsequently losing his wife to cancer forced him to make a career change.

It was here that he met radio examiner Brian Farrell while a repeater was being installed on top of one of the university buildings. And after being encouraged (or is it nagged) by good friend Phil, another long time Ham, he started studying for the radio exam.

When he's not busy moving to his lifestyle block with 4 chickens, two ducks, forty five fruit trees (twenty of which still need to be planted), and his ever present retired racehound Marshall, he is a keen fresh and saltwater fisherman, likes to explore central North Island rivers and lakes with his jetboat, and is a serious bush cook.

Pieter has big plans for his shack. He is especially interested in HF. Starting out with a handheld Baofeng UV25 for 70cm and 2m, and also a Xiegu G90 that he had just received. He's saving up for a Line Amp, and a few other things, and also very sure that this will not be the last radio. I'm sure radios are like tools or fishing gear. One can never have enough.

"Quite keen to experiment with different antenna setups in the future, but just need to get on the air for now. Greg from The Ham Shack in Christchurch was invaluable with all kinds of advice and support, and the service and after sales care is incredible."

Pieter will be kicking round the West Coast of the central North Island quite a bit. If you hear him. Please give him a shout out. He'll be quite keen for a few local POTA/ SOTA missions too to learn from those more experienced.

The appeal of DX-peditions comes down to one thing:

being where the action isn't — and making it happen.

The Challenge
You're going somewhere that doesn't have many stations on the air. Could be a remote island, a seldom-activated country, or a polar outpost. Calling CQ there actually makes people respond. That thrill of lighting up your pile-ups is addictive.

The Hunt
Some DXCC entities are like unicorns — rare, infrequently activated, or logistically devilish to reach.
Getting a contact with one of these is a real achievement, not a QSO from your backyard.

Adventure
Logistics matter. You're often slogging gear into places with no infrastructure — boats, bush-planes, hiking, salt spray, sand, weather.
It's radio with a real expedition vibe, not just plugging in at a comfortable station.

Community and Camaraderie
Teams are tight. Long days setting up antennas, generators, shelters, troubleshooting gear in marginal conditions — you bond hard.
That shared blood-sweat-tears thing is part of why folks do it again and again.

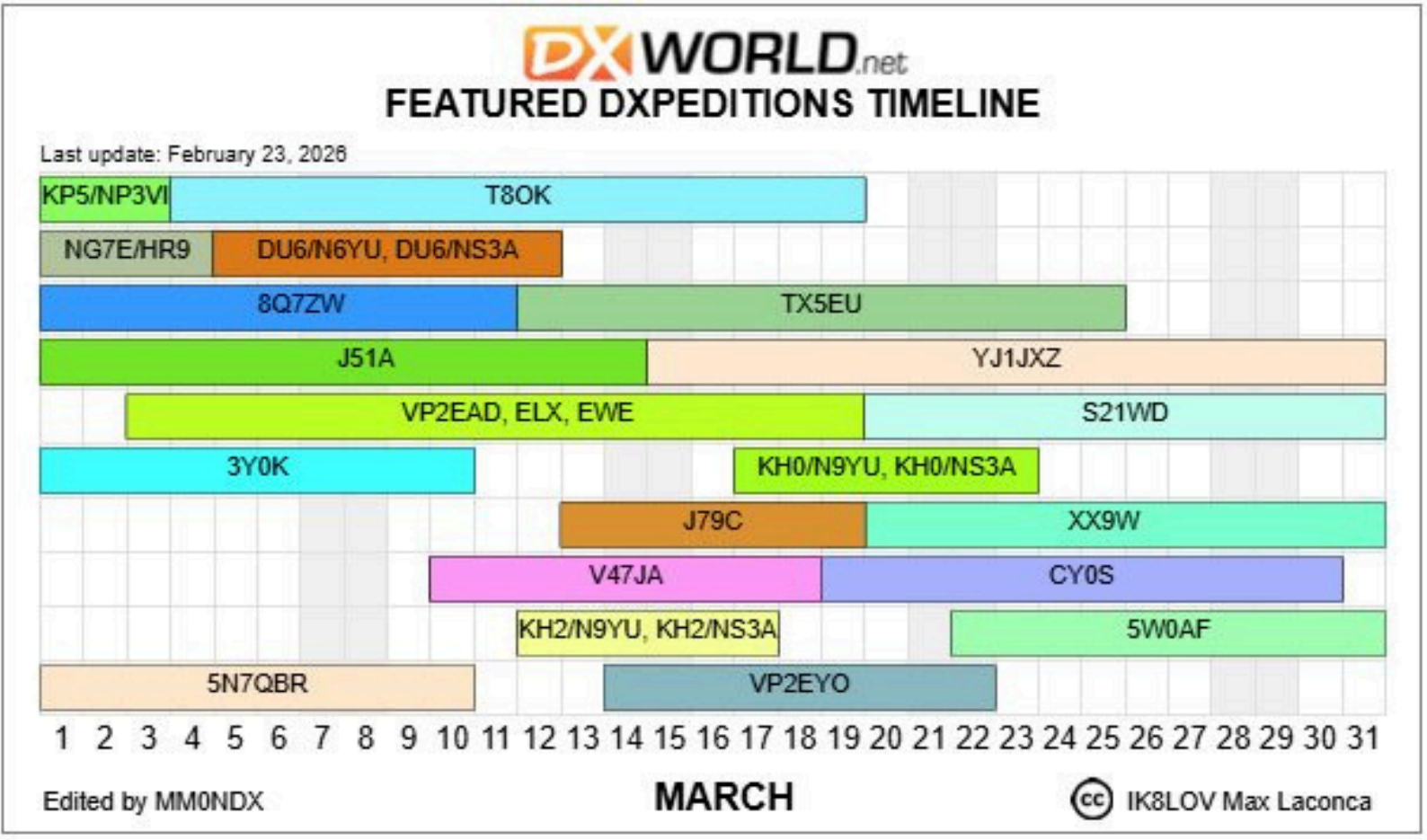
Skill Stretch
You're forced to think on your feet:

- antennas you've never built before
- generators, power management
- band conditions in real time
- pileup management and operating techniques

Giving Back to the Hobby
Rare entities expand the opportunities for others to complete awards (DXCC, WAZ, etc.). DX-peditions unlock chances for thousands of operators. That's meaningful in the ham world.

The Personal Stamp
You're not just operating — you're making history.
Logs get published, call signs get remembered, and every rare contact earns bragging rights.

JOSE, EA5BCQ LETS US KNOW THAT THE EQUIPMENT FOR XX9W IS NOW PACKED AND READY, AS PER PICTURES. FULL DETAILS AND WEBSITE BELOW.



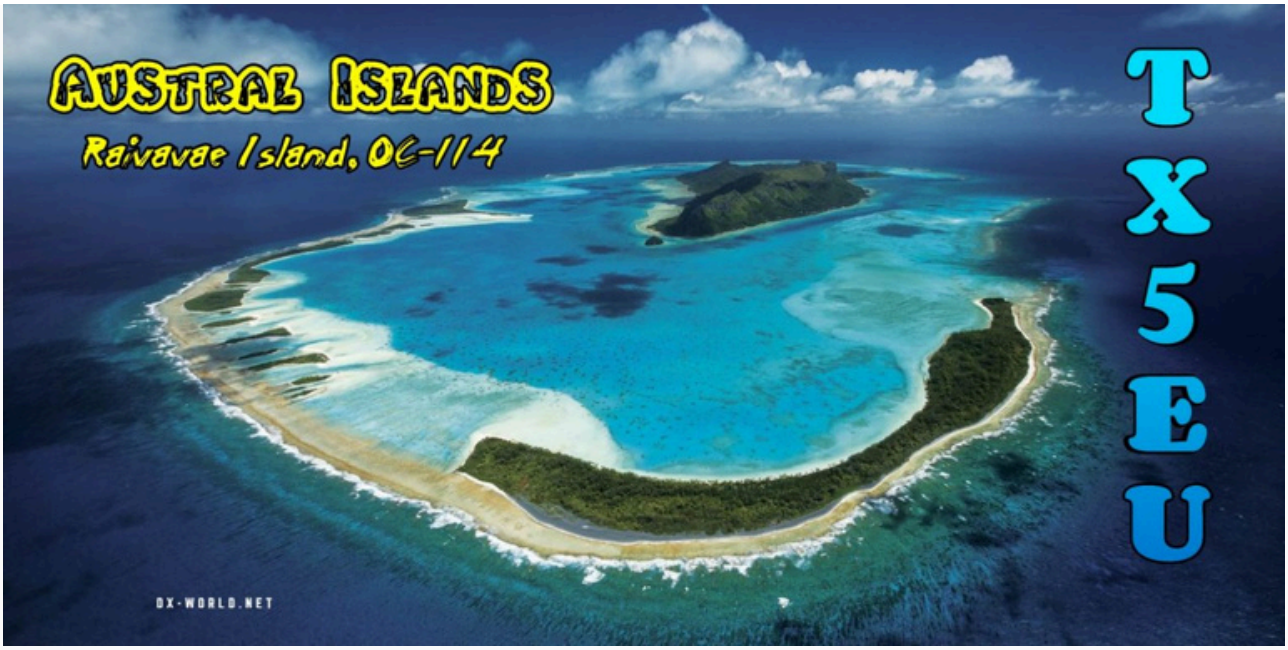
5W0AF – SAMOA

Jacek, SP5EAQ informs DX-WORLD that he plans to activate Samoa for a period of three weeks starting on 22 March, operating SSB exclusively.

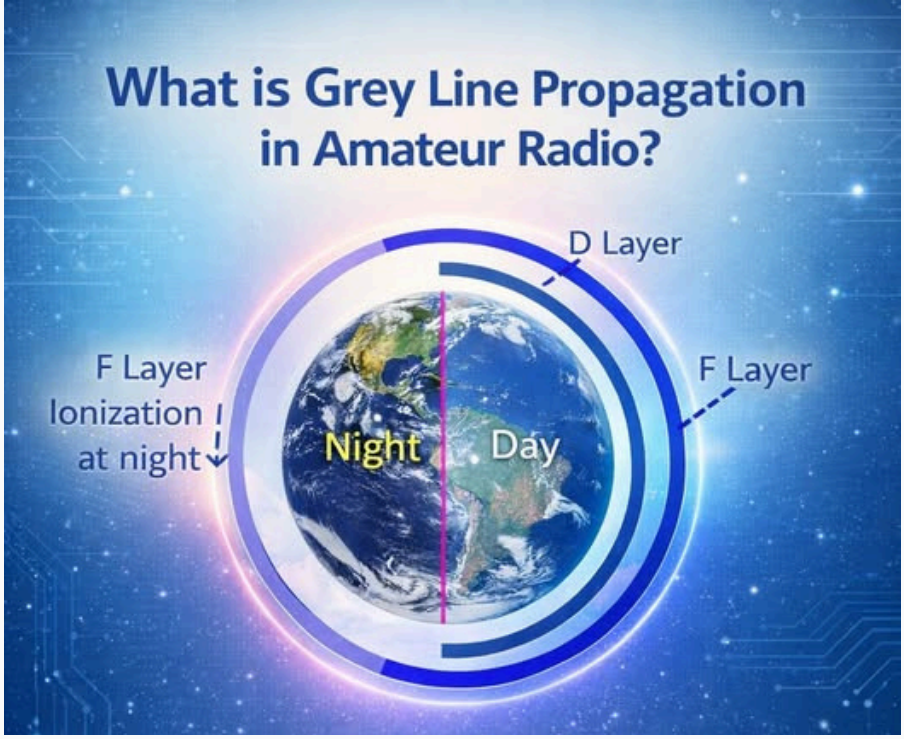
Operations will cover all bands from 10 to 40 meters, with a possibility of limited activity on 80 meters. As with his previous operations, this will be a single-operator activation using my former callsign, 5W0AF.

Courtesy of DXworld.net

DX WORLD.net



Team consisting of PG5M, PA3EWP, DL2AMD, PA2KW, DK2AMM & DL2AWG will be active from Raivavae Island, Austral Islands as TX5EU during March 12-25, 2026. For full details check out their website or click logo below.



Greyline Propagation — When the Bands Come Alive at Sunrise & Sunset
In the world of HF DXing, greyline propagation is pure magic.

Greyline occurs along the terminator line — the moving boundary between daylight and darkness on Earth. During sunrise and sunset, the ionosphere undergoes rapid changes. The D-layer, which normally absorbs lower HF signals during the day, weakens quickly, while the higher F-layers remain ionized and capable of reflecting signals over long distances.

The result?
Signals can travel thousands of kilometers with surprisingly low power — especially on bands like 20 meters (14 MHz) and 40 meters (7 MHz).

Why Greyline Works So Well
Reduced D-layer absorption at sunrise/sunset
Strong F-layer reflection still active
Enhanced long-path and low-angle DX opportunities
Ideal conditions for QRP operators

Timing is everything. Operators often monitor greyline maps to align their sunrise with a target region's sunset — creating a narrow but powerful propagation window.

Real-World Greyline Success Story
One memorable example proves just how powerful this phenomenon can be:
A VK station logged Europe on 20m using just 5 watts and a simple wire antenna during greyline propagation. Skill, timing, and patience made the contact possible.
Yes — just 5W. No amplifier. No beam. Just understanding propagation and choosing the right moment.

That's the beauty of greyline: it rewards knowledge over brute force.

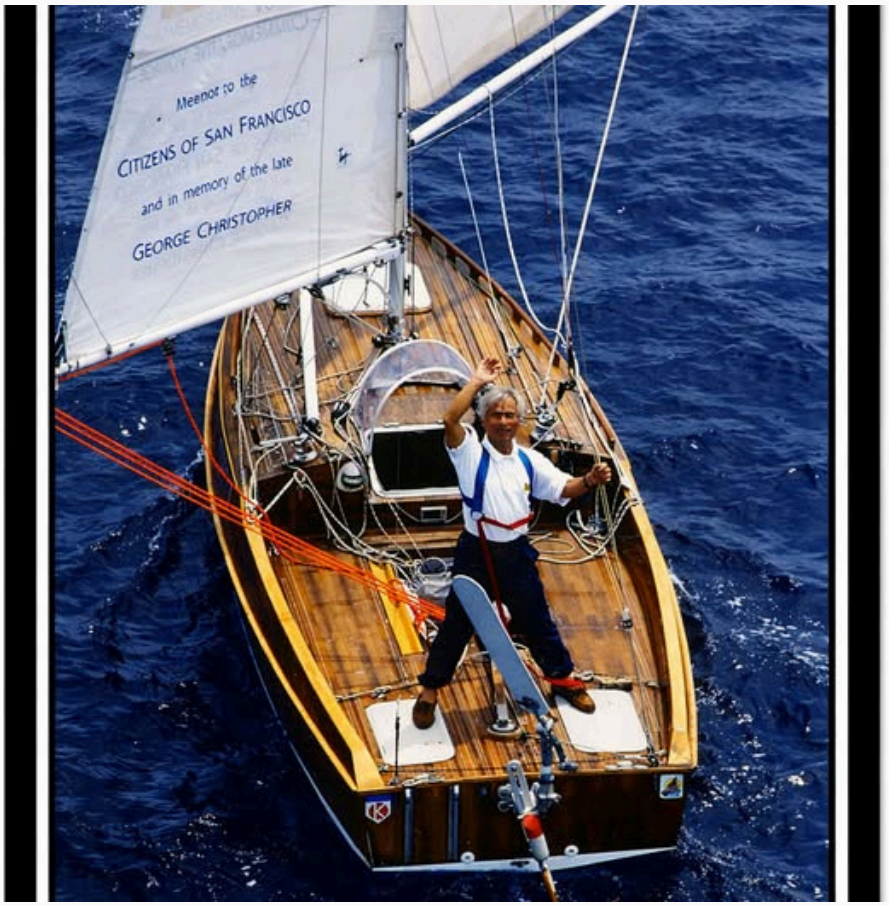
Tips for Working Greyline DX
Check sunrise/sunset times for both locations
Use greyline propagation maps
Focus on 20m and 40m bands
Operate with low-angle antennas (verticals or well-placed wire antennas)
Be patient — the window may last only 15–45 minutes

Greyline reminds us that sometimes, nature does the heavy lifting.
Whether you're running QRP or QRO, understanding propagation can transform your station's performance.

Have you ever worked DX during greyline? Share your experience!

https://www.facebook.com/amateurradiokits.in

When Sailing met Amateur Radio



The Legend of Kenichi Horie.

Long before satellite phones became common, Kenichi Horie proved the true power of amateur radio. This legendary Japanese solo sailor crossed vast oceans in his small yacht Memory II, staying connected to the world using HF ham radio.

During his historic voyages, ham radio was his lifeline — for position reports, safety, and human connection across thousands of kilometers of open sea. His adventures beautifully demonstrated what amateur radio is all about: self-reliance, innovation, and global friendship.

Even today, many maritime and portable operators draw inspiration from his courage and practical use of HF communication.

In 1962, at the age of 23, Kenichi Horie sailed alone across the Pacific Ocean from Japan to San Francisco aboard a 19-foot (5.8 m) plywood sailboat called the Mermaid. He departed Nishinomiya, Japan, on May 12, 1962, and arrived in San Francisco, California, U.S., on August 11. Despite Horie's best effort to legally depart from Japan, and because of the lack of precedent for international travel on a small sailboat, he was not able to obtain a passport or an adequate amount of foreign currency. He arrived with no passport or money and was initially arrested. After learning of his voyage, San Francisco Mayor George Christopher arranged for him to be freed. He was given a 30-day visa and the key to the city.

Other voyages
In 1974, he circumnavigated from east to west, and in 1978 he circumnavigated from north to south. In 1985, he sailed a solar boat from Hawaii to Chichijima. From 1992 to 1993, he sailed from Hawaii to Okinawa in a pedal powered boat. In 1996, Horie sailed from Salinas, Ecuador to Tokyo in a solar boat made of recycled aluminum. This crossing covered 10,000 miles (16,000 km) in 148 days which earned the Guinness World Record for the fastest crossing of the Pacific in a solar-powered boat. The Malt's Mermaid is on display at Kotohira-gū Shrine in Shikoku, close to the main hall.

In 1999, he sailed from San Francisco to Japan aboard a boat made primarily from recycled materials. The boat, Malt's Mermaid II, designed by Kennosuke Hayashi, was a 32.8-foot (10.0 m) long, 17.4-foot (5.3 m) wide, catamaran constructed from 528 beer kegs welded end-to-end in five rows. Horie joked that 500 of them were empty. The rigging consisted of two side-by-side masts with junk rig sails made from recycled plastic bottles. This boat is on display in Okura Beach, Akashi.
In 2002, Horie sailed from Nishinomiya to San Francisco aboard the Mermaid III, which was a replica of the original Mermaid constructed from a variety of recycled materials, including whiskey barrels for the hull, aluminum cans for the mast and plastic soda bottles for the sails.

https://www.facebook.com/amateurradiokits.in

Redfest 2026

Digital Communications

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

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

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

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

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

ICOM

WIN

WIN

MAD DOG COILS AUSTRALIA

Visit redfest.org for more information

THE HAM SHACK

RRL Launches Nationwide Grassroots Campaign to Pass Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

ARRL has launched a nationwide grassroots campaign aimed at securing the passage of federal legislation that would grant Amateur Radio Operators the same rights to install antennas on their property as those enjoyed by users of TV antennas, wireless internet, and flagpoles.

The campaign, announced in an ARRL Member Bulletin on September 17, 2025, follows the reintroduction of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act in February 2025 (see ARRL News 02/07/2025). The bipartisan bills -- H.R.1094 in the House and S.459 in the Senate -- are designed to prevent restrictive homeowners' association (HOA) rules that currently prohibit or severely limit the installation of amateur radio antennas, even when such antennas are hidden in trees, placed in attics, mounted on vehicles, or look like flagpoles.

"This legislation is about restoring equal rights to licensed Amateur Radio operators," said ARRL President Rick Roderick. "These restrictions hinder not only the enjoyment of Amateur Radio, but also its vital role in emergency communication during disasters."

The ARRL Solar Update

Solar activity returned to low levels this past week. The strongest event of the period was a C1.8 flare on February 17 from region 4374. This region was also responsible for a C1.4 flare on February 18. The only other flare of note was a C1.1 flare on February 17 from an unnumbered plage region near S05E85. (A plage region is a bright, intensely hot region in the Sun's chromosphere, typically found in active areas surrounding sunspots.)

Region 4374 exhibited minor decay through the dissipation of its trailing spots. Regions 4375 and 4377 were largely unchanged in area and complexity.

A large filament eruption beyond the southwest limb was seen in SDO and SUVI imagery starting approximately February 18. It was associated with a Type II radio sweep that began on February 18 with an estimated shock velocity of 310 km/s. The eruption was first visible in coronagraph imagery on February 18, but initial analysis indicates no Earth-directed component. Solar activity is forecast to be at low levels, with a slight chance for M-class (R1-R2/minor-moderate) flares through February 20.

Solar wind parameters continued to reflect the waning influence of a positive polarity Coronal Hole High-Speed Stream (CH HSS). Solar wind speed followed a general declining trend, decreasing from an initial peak near 600 km/s to approximately 500 km/s by the end of the reporting period. The solar wind environment is expected to remain enhanced through February 20 due to continued but weakening CH HSS influences.

North Carolina Students Scheduled to Make Contact with the International Space Station

580 students at Conn Magnet Elementary School in Raleigh, North Carolina, will participate in a conversation with an astronaut on board the International Space Station (ISS).

Radio communications will be provided by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society under the leadership of John Brier, K4EB. "This contact could not have been possible without a $14,000 grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC), said Brier. "The new equipment, which is in cases and movable, will allow us to provide communications for other schools in the area." Brier added that club members are being trained to operate the gear and it can be loaned to other clubs for use in future ARISS contacts.

Today's contact will be with NASA astronaut and medical physicist Christopher Williams, KJ5GE. Twelve students will be asking questions, two in each grade level, from kindergarten through fifth grade. All 12 students will be wearing special T-shirts designed by a second grader who won the school's T-shirt logo contest. Students also had a chance to create a logo for a keychain and there was a winner for each grade. Every student will get their grade level keychain to mark the ARISS event.

Editor's comment - shouldn't we get involved with our local school to promote amateur radio?

South East Radio Group
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JUNE 6-7th 2026

Mt Gambier SA

Australian Foxhunting Championships

Scout Hall, 3 Margaret St.

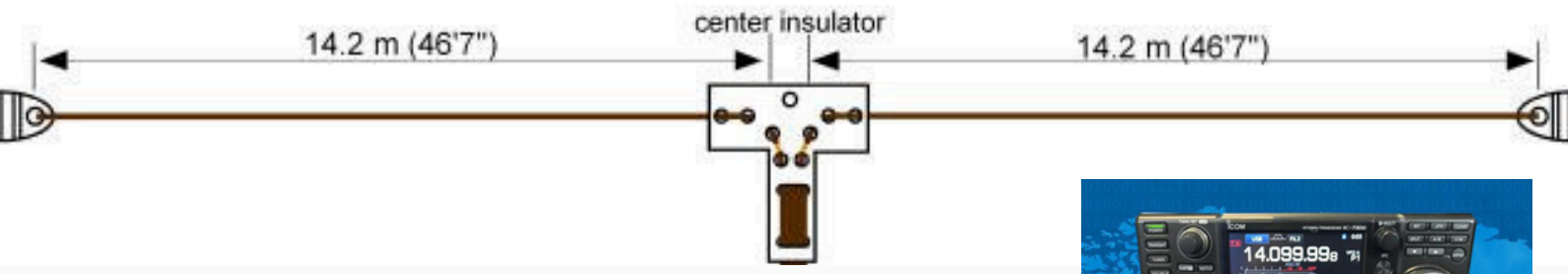
Mount Gambier, South Aust

City of Mount Gambier

In conjunction with the SERG Annual Convention & Dinner

Email : convention@serg.org.au

www.serg.org.au



Competition consol
for the Icom IC 7300
available from
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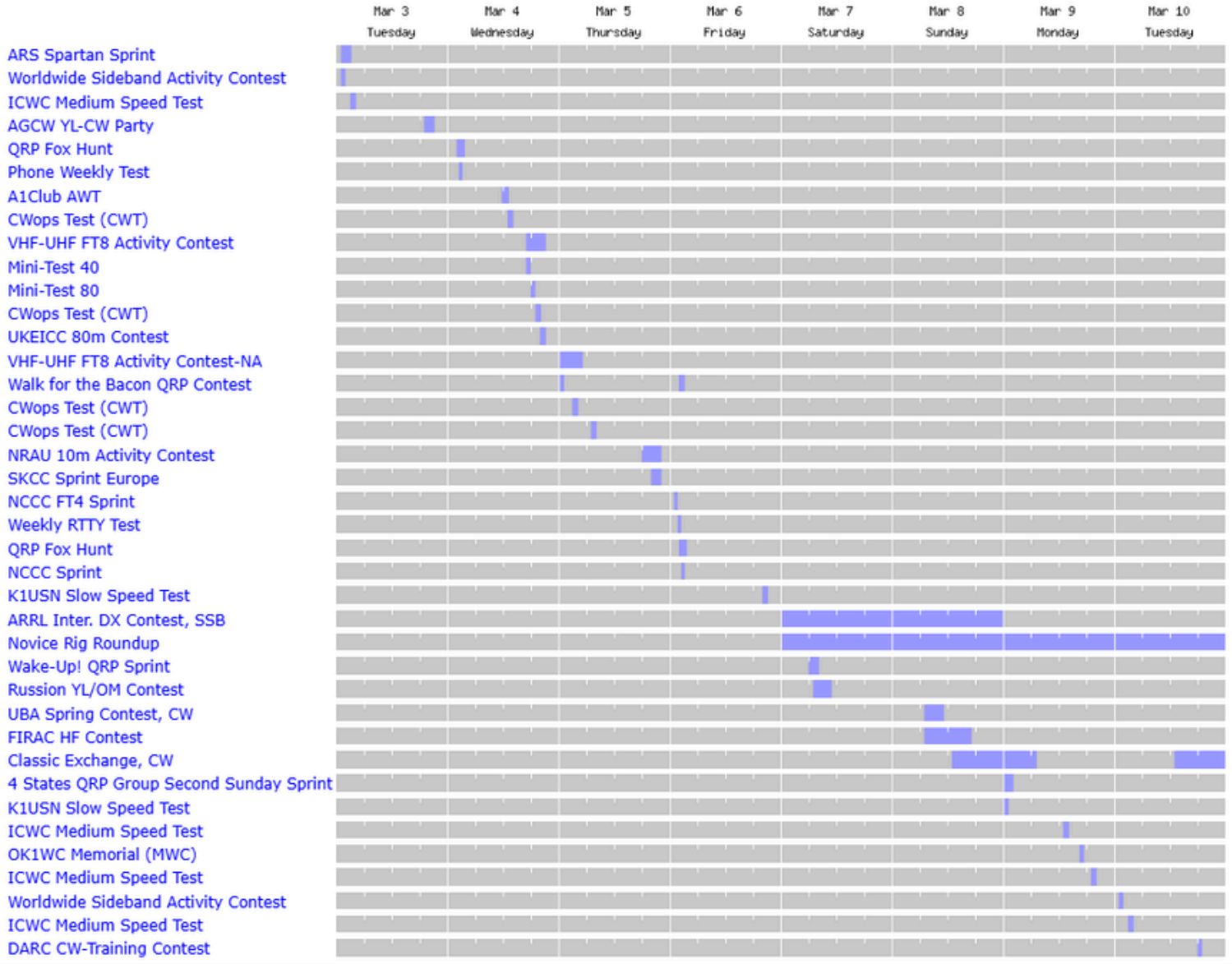
COMPETITION CALENDAR

WA7BNM Contest Calendar

Powered by ICOM



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HAMFESTS AUSTRALASIA GROUP

VK / ZL Events Calendar adjusted 22 - 02 – 2026

- Sthrn Electronics Grp BUY – SWAP – SELL Sat. 7th March (Mt Barker WA - VK6)
- Westlakes ARC CAR BOOT SALE Sunday 15th March (Teralba VK2)
- EMDRC Car Boot Sale Sunday 29th March (East Burwood VK3)
- SCARC Car Boot Sale Sunday 29th March (Bli Bli VK4)
- Redcliffe & Dist Radio Club REDFEST Sat 11th April (VK4)
- ANTENNAPALOOZA 18th and 19th April (Drouin West VK3)
- VK SUMMIT – Amateur Radio products exhibition 2nd & 3rd May (Albury VK2)
- Moorabbin & Dist. Radio Club HAMFEST Saturday 9th May (New Venue TBA VK3)
- HAMCAMPTION 15TH - 16TH - 17TH MAY (Mayanup VK6)
- R.E.G. Inc ANNUAL EQUIPMENT SALE Sat 16th May (Hamilton – Nth Island ZL)
- Illawarra ARS PICTON HAMFEST Sunday 31st May (VK2)
- ORARC 2026 FIELD DAYS Sat-Sun 6th / 7th June (Wauchope VK2)
- AUST FOX HUNT CHAMPS 6th / 7th June (In conjunction with SERG Ann. Convention) (VK5)
- SERG ANNUAL CONVENTION Sunday 7th June Details TBA (VK5)
- SADARC SHEPPARTON HAMFEST Sunday September 13TH (VK3)
- SUNFEST Saturday 19th September (Beerwah VK4)
- BAREC BENDIGO RADIOFEST Sunday 11th October (Bendigo VK3)
- Gold Coast Hamfest November ? Date TBC (VK4)
- AREG ADELAIDE CAR BOOT SALE Saturday 26th November (Kilburn VK5)

Find or post event details at Hamfests Australasia Group FB page
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1675116319317400/

Hit "JOIN" to stay updated

BEN BLACK ZL4AT

Artificial Intelligence got me into HAM radio.

Yes, you read that right, it was A.I that first told me about our wonderful hobby that has since consumed much of my time and bank balance.

I was walking my dog at the Alexandra airfield, while talking to ChatGPT's ultra realistic voice mode, which by the way is amazing. It's like having a friend who knows everything. You can have a conversation as naturally as with a real person.

Anyway, I was looking at the control tower and asked my A.I how I could listen in to the air traffic. It told me about SDRs and mentioned you can also listen to HAM radio transmissions. I said "what's HAM radio?" and that was that.

After 5 weeks of studying harder than I ever did at school I passed my test at the Balclutha branch 35. The members there are a great bunch of guys and Cliff ZL4AS has been my primary Elmer.

After the exam Cliff invited me round to see his shack and I think at that point my Wife had her first reservations about the hobby…the top of Cliff's mast was in the clouds, and the amount of antennas around his property was mind boggling for a newbie like myself, it quite overwhelming for my Wife who had visions of me transforming our little town property into an antenna farm.

11 months later and I'm well and truly hooked, and significantly poorer financially. On the bright side, I've made a heap of new friends and found a hobby that genuinely fires me up, and maybe even tips into mild obsession. Last week I found myself hiking up a hill at 1am just to chase a few more US contacts on 40 metres.

I quickly progressed from VHF to HF and went down the portable route (because my Wife forbade antennas on the property) however I have since snuck an efhw & a dipole up a tree which she hasn't noticed yet!

I won't forget my first HF contact on my Icom 705 setup at a picnic spot in town. I was on 20 meters and made contact with an Italian station on just 5 watts. I was over the moon making such a long distance contact and blown away with the coolness of the old school tech that allowed me to talk with a guy on the other side of the world. Obsession quickly followed and I found myself talking the dog for a walk much more often as an excuse to set up portable and chase DX.

Going down the portable HF route naturally led me to discover POTA, which has been the best part of HAM radio for me so far.
I really enjoy the challenge of going out to different places and setting up a station, The New Zealand POTA community is a fantastic group of people, too. Knowing there are operators out there genuinely hoping to catch you on the air is a powerful push to get moving. And when you share the setbacks, the problem-solving, and the little victories, it builds a real sense of camaraderie.

Thanks to everyone who has answered my calls, offered advice, and shared the journey so far. I'm looking forward to many more contacts, more lessons learned, and plenty more late-night adventures under a wire in a tree.

Ben ZL4AT

Saturday 7th March 2026

11.00am – 3.00pm (Sellers from 9.00am)

Frost Park (Mt Barker Racecourse)

McDonald Ave, Mt Barker

Entry: $5.00 for buyers & sellers.

- Sellers reserve your table by emailing reservations@hamradio.org.au before 28 Feb 2026
- Food & Drinks are available at local Mt Barker cafes & bakery (900 metres) and support local businesses.

Call in on VK6RAA Mt Barker 70cm repeater – 439.950MHz (-7.00MHz offset)

Southern Electronics Group Inc. | www.hamradio.org.au | vk6sr@hamradio.org.au

The largest radio exhibition of its kind in Australia.

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

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

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

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

Largest Australian radio exhibition of its kind

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

Location
Commercial Club Albury
618 Dean Street, Albury NSW 2640

LINK TO REGISTER

Official NZ Agent

ALINCO

Official NZ Agent

spiderbeam

THE HAM SHACK

Official NZ/OZ Agent

GUOHETEC

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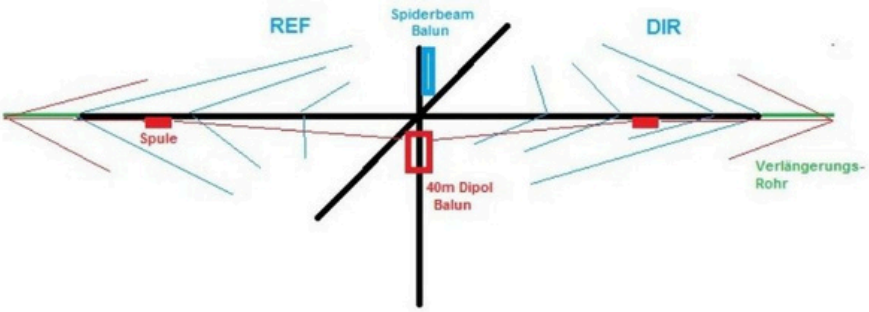
spiderbeam

high performance lightweight antennas

Spiderbeam was founded in the year 2000 by DF4SA, sparked by his passion for highly competitve radio contesting during portable, outdoor operations, fielddays, DXpeditions, etc. Simple wire antennas are quite allright, but using them to do well in a contest is pretty hard.

The spider beam is a full size lightweight tribander yagi for 20-15-10m, made from fiberglass and wire. It has been specially developed as a highly efficient antenna for portable use - a DXpeditioner's dream with excellent gain.

The Spiderbeam Yagi antennas are probably the most used antenna on any DX Pedition.



Current Stock of Spiderbeam Antennas

5 Band HD yagi - assembled components
5 Band yagi (Portable version)
GoPak (12m pole +404 antenna + guy kit)
404 Asymetrical Antenna - 6 Band
807 8 Band dipole
40m (7Mhz) Add-On dipole (fits on yagi)

Enroute from Germany (arriving late Feb)

3 Band yagi
Additional 5 Band yagis

Current Stock of Spiderbeam Masts

12m masts (incl. guy ring and clamps)
10m masts

Enroute from Germany (arriving late Feb)

Mast bags - we do have some in stock.

Other masts - SOTABEAM
7m Tactical
6m Tactical
6m Carbon
4m Lightweight

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Proof of Amateur Licence required for all radio purchases

spiderbeam
high performance lightweight antennas

THE HAM SHACK

Why do DX-Peditions favour Spiderbeam Yagi's?

DXpeditions favour Spiderbeam antennas because they hit the sweet spot between performance, portability, weight, and speed of deployment. When you're flying into a remote island with baggage limits and limited manpower, that balance matters more than raw brute-force performance.

1. Serious Gain Without the Aluminium
A full-sized aluminium Yagi gives excellent performance — but it's heavy, bulky, and a logistical nightmare to transport.

A Spiderbeam multi-band Yagi gives:
- Awesome gain on multiple bands
- Proper front-to-back ratio
- Real directivity
- Full-size elements (not shortened traps)

And it does it using fibreglass spreaders and wire elements.

Performance is very close to a conventional 3-element tribander — but without 20–30 kg of aluminium and a big rotator.

2. Airline-Friendly
- Breaks down into short sections
- Packs into standard luggage tubes
- Weighs around 12–15 kg for a full 5-band version
- Doesn't require a heavy tower or rotator

3. Fast Deployment

4. Works Brilliantly in Pileups
Directional control is everything during a pileup.
A Spiderbeam gives:
- Clean front-to-back rejection
- Narrower lobe than a vertical
- Ability to "hunt" geographic openings

That's why so many DXpeditions combine:
- Spiderbeam for 20–10m
- Vertical arrays for 40–160m

It's a practical, proven combination.

WE HAVE STOCK

spiderbeam
OFFICIAL NEW ZEALAND AGENT
HIGH PERFORMANCE YAGI & WIRE ANTENNAS

THE HAM SHACK

5. No Traps = Better Reliability
Trap antennas fail. Coils burn. Salt air kills hardware.
Spiderbeams use full-size wire elements — no traps, no lossy coils. For harsh environments (salt spray, tropical humidity), that simplicity matters.

When you're on an island in the middle of nowhere, you can't pop down to a hardware store.

In Stock and Available from The Ham Shack the New Zealand and Australian official AGENTS

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Jock White Memorial Field Day

This annual contest is named to honour Jock White ZL2GX, NZART Contest and Awards Manager for over 40 years, for the service that he gave to NZART during that time.

I, ZL1GUD had never participated in a contest before and, wow it was fun. We were allocated Branch 92 for the event and invited other Field Day newbees to join us. The Ham Shack provided gear to use on 80m with Phil ZL3PAE setting up his 40m station.

On 80m we used the Yaesu FT891, the PMR 171 and the Spiderbeam 807 wire antenna that worked wonders with over 260 contacts on 80m and 250 contacts on 40m. Power was 2 x 110 Ah deep cycle batteries with a solar panel to charge - for the 80m setup.

Thank you to Phil ZL3PAE, Phil ZL3CC, Brian ZL4WX and Mike ZL3GMT for joining us.

Refreshments were provided by The Ham Shack

Best 73's until next year

ZL1GUD
WWW.THEHAMSHACK


ZL3PAE


ZL3GMT


Sunrise
Photos by ZL3PAE & ZL1GUD

Talk to the ISS School Applications close 27th March

Get your educational group involved with ARISS for a once-in-a-lifetime experience for your kids!

It all starts with a visit to our website: Get your educational group involved with ARISS for a once-in-a-lifetime experience for your kids!

https://www.ariss.org/apply-to-host-an-ariss-contact.html

ARISS Contact Applications (Canada, Central and South America, Asia and Australia and Russia)

For Australian and New Zealand Schools
Contact Satoshi Yasuda, 7M3TJZ
Email: ariss.yasuda@gmail.com

Contesting

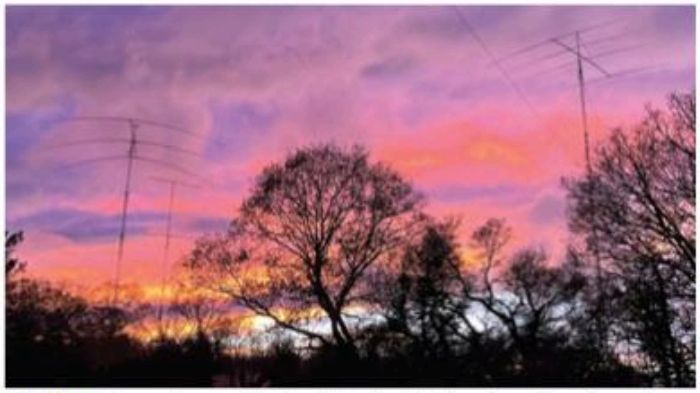

PHOTO 1: Three-element full-size 40m Yagi in fibreglass, four elements on 20m and two sets of five elements on 10m at M6T.

PHOTO 2: DL8JJ and G4PVM operating M6T's 40m station.

Your para1. Why Contesting (Nick, G4FAL)
How does it work?
Why take part?
What are the aspirations of contesters?
Why do contesters send 59 reports all the time?
Why are there contests every weekend?
Why do contesters invest so much time and money in their stations?
Plan for the column over the next couple of years.

2. Contesting History (Nick, G4FAL)
How did it all start?
Early Competitive Amateur Radio – Records and Achievements
First Contests
The Growth of Contesting
Yesterday's techniques
Technological changes continue to enhance contesting tools

3. Choose your Contest (Nick, G4FAL)
Where do you start?
Where should you contest – HF, VHF or UHF?
Select your mode?
The Big Contests
RSGB Contests
Club Contesting
Reasonable expectations for beginners

4. Get ready for HF Contesting (Nick, G4FAL)
Minimum equipment to take part
Computer logging – why is this essential?
Ergonomics and operability
Read the rules – how do I optimise my score within the rules?
Read the band-plans – how do I respect other band users?
Does your HF station work – how to test it?
Contest Exchanges and efficient operating at HF
Submitting your log

5. Get ready for VHF Contesting (Andy, G4PIQ)
Minimum equipment to take part
Computer logging
Ergonomics and operability
Read the rules – how do I optimise my score within the rules
Does your VHF station work – how to test it?
Contest Exchanges and efficient operating at VHF

Editor: There is a lot of information on their site so follow the link in the article (right click) and read all the have.

MORSE CODE - STORIES
CARYN KD2GUT

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

Mid-season malaise. It happens.

We can all find an excuse, er, a reason for not powering up the rig.
Band conditions are bad; the QRM sounds worse than a Desecheo Island pileup.
Band conditions are amazing - but it's so crowded you need use a shoehorn to find an open frequency.
The weather is brutal, so who can activate from a park?
The weather is wonderful, it's a good day to take a nap.
My ears aren't working. My fist isn't working. The other guy's fist isn't working.
Or maybe you simply don't want to get on the air. My attitude isn't working.
Raise your right hand if you've ever been struck down by mid-season malaise -- even if it's no longer mid-season. Well that was me, raising my hand for much of February when it should have been busy on the key.

Let's face it, we've all traded Samuel F.B. Morse for a little bit of Rip Van Winkle -- even the famous weathercasting marmots and groundhogs of Europe and North America know there is merit in having a hibernation mode.

How to shake the malaise? You don't. You wait. Yes, it lifts.

I'm not sure how but it begins with just turning on the rig and listening. Eavesdropping on that ragchew. Thinking about answering that CQ. Chasing a little bit of POTA. Pursuing that DX. Checking into that net. Or maybe grabbing that special event station when the dust clears from the pileup.

Soon you're hearing the music of your own callsign being sung back to you by someone else's key and your fist begins dancing to the tune. Maybe it's a friend you've worked before. Maybe it's a friend you haven't met yet. (Ham radio is full of those!) Either way, you start to smile. This is a homecoming of sorts. You chuckle; you send "hi hi" and realize that mid-season malaise has just morphed into something else: mid-season momentum. So don't bother raising your right hand, after all. You're going to be busy for a while.

CARYN
KD2GUT

How to Break a CW Pileup (Properly)

Here's the straight truth:

1. **Listen first.**
   Find where the DX is listening.
2. **Match their speed.**
   Don't send at 35 WPM if you can only copy 20.
3. **Send your full call once.**
   Not three times. Not five.
4. **Time your call.**
   Transmit slightly after others stop — not during.
5. **Watch their pattern.**
   Many operators tune upward or downward systematically.
6. **Use a tight filter.**
   200–300 Hz makes a huge difference.

And most important:

If you can't hear them clearly, they probably can't hear you.

BUILD YOUR OWN ANTENNA

We stock everything you need to build your own antenna

THE HAM SHACK

- Balun/unun's
- Antenna Wire - variety
- Stanless steel wire
- Insulators
- Parrallel clamps
- Pipe clamps
- Spacers for ladder feed
- Banana plugs for linked dipoles
- Coax cable
- Connectors
- Winders
- SWR meters
- Masks
- Pegs to anchor mast & dipole
- Aluminium (Canterbury only)
- Ferrite rings

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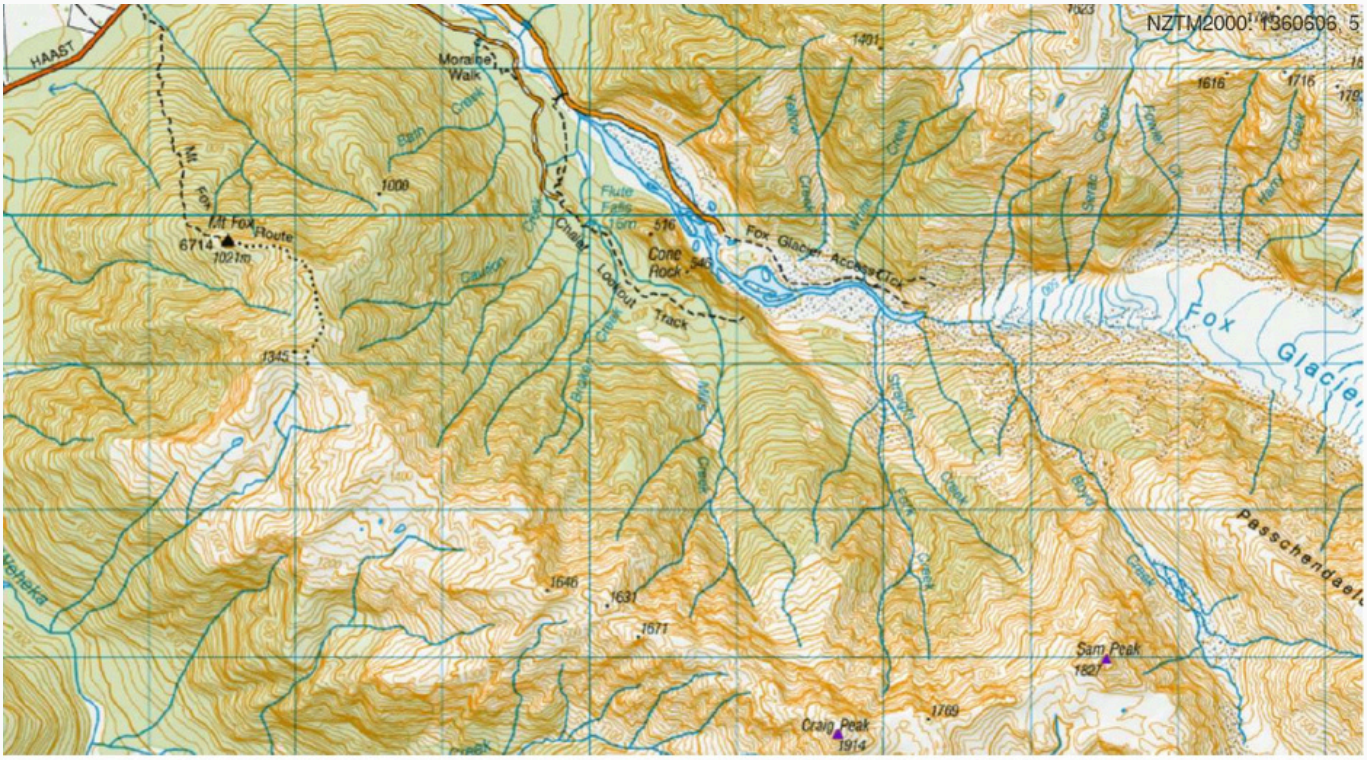
Craig Peak via Fox Peak Route

This traverse is all covered in a set of photographs.



Craig Peak (8pts), accessed via Fox Peak Route & ridgeline - 3km Sth of Fox Glacier township

Fox river from (nearly) Fox Peak – 1345m – (not a SOTA summit)

Bypassing pt1671m – ridgeline to Craig Peak beyond

Ascending to Craig Peak (1914m) – still 1km to go – last pic before mist closes in completely

Cairn / shrine on Craig Peak – where's the 'amazing view of Fox Glacier, Mt Cook & Mt Tasman'!

Next Month in New Zealand and Australian Amateur Radio

New Monthly Columns - from April

- Short Wave Listening (Frequencies, gear and antennas)
- PRS Radio (Getting started and the application)
- CB Radio - the place where a lot of us started our radio journey

We will continue featuring hams - new and experienced

Any radio amateur related adventures

Please submit articles and any projects you are busy with.

FUN STUFF


STOP BEING SO DRAMATIC, IT'S JUST A WIRE ANTENNA!
FIRST AID


OMG HE'S BOUGHT A NEW RADIO!!!"'
That Sailing Life


THE STEALTH ANTENNA STRUGGLE: INVISIBLE PAINT!
I HOPE THIS INVISIBLE PAINT WORKS... MY WIFE THINKS IT LOOKS HIDEIEOUS!
HE'S NOT HIDING IT, LOH HE'S DETUNING IT!


DON'T ATTEMPT TO BUY ANOTHER NEW RADIO! YOU HAVE TOO MUCH RADIO AND NO ROOM LEFT ON YOUR SHELVES!
MY DEAR, WHAT ARE YOU THINKING? I'M JUST LOOKING AROUND!
ICOM
YAESU
LOVE STORIES
QST
NEW TRANSCEIVERS 2024!
73
HAM RADIO
ANTENNA

ZR1AAH - Africa Correspondent

ALLEN WOOD

QRP/EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS (BY KF8GR)

This is an extract from KF8GR / QRP web page .....
This is short and sweet...

QRP/Emergency Communications in the great outdoors

QRP operation in the wild is one of the best ways to renew the soul, increase your operating skill, make sure you have all the cables you need, and prepares you for operating under the most difficult conditions.

It is unfortunate that many hams think Field Day is the only training they need for emergency operations. Field Day is the WORST training possible for emergency operations. The entire design of Field Day is to get lid operators doing ANYTHING to run up the score. If you doubt me, listen to the idiots trying to talk over the SSTV frequencies on any contesting weekend. Now don't get me wrong, contesting CAN be a great way to get set up for emergency traffic handling, etc. It is just not normally used that way, it is just the excuse used to contest.

Using a QRP rig, a laptop computer, and the best antenna setup you can find, and working on a day when no one even knows you are out there is how you test your true skills. If you can fill a logbook from a rustic park or woodland setting, you can work emergency operations almost anywhere. Every day you spend in the wild is a true test of your operating skill, band conditions, and camping knowledge. Couple this with Adventure Radio, and man.... that's living. Any jerk can spend a weekend in June pretending to be an emergency communicator. As the good book says, by your works you shall be known.

If I have offended any hams, good. Maybe they will get out and REALLY start to learn how to be an emergency communicator.

"You are 60db over nine,
turn down your power, stupid!"

Choosing Solar Panels for Emergency Communications

1) Know Your Radio's Power Needs First
You can't size a solar panel until you know exactly what you need to power.
- Find the radio's voltage and current draw (in amps or watts). Check the specs for transmit, receive, and standby currents.

2) Decide What You'll Actually Power
Are you planning to run:
- Just the radio?
- Radio + battery charging + lights + comms accessories?
- A beacon or APRS station?
-

3) Choose Your Battery First — Solar Works With a Battery
Solar panels don't power a load directly in real life — they charge a battery which then powers the radio.
So your basic system is:
Solar Panel → Charge Controller → Battery → Radio
Battery sizing rule:
Have enough stored energy to run your radio for at least 3–5 days with no sun.

Calculate battery amp-hours

Example:
RX 5 min her hour on the hour for 12 hours = 1 hour @ 1A
TX 10 min her hour on the hour for 12 hours = 2 hour @ 18A = 36 A
TOTAL Current draw per day is 37A so say 40A per day so fro 3 days 120Ah battery would be the minimum

Hint: Bigger is almost always better. A 100 Ah or larger battery is a good starting point for serious use.

4) Match Solar Panel Output to Your Usage
Solar panels are rated in watts. To convert to real world usable current:
So for 12 V nominal:
- 100 W → ~5.5 A peak
- 200 W → ~11 A peak

But here's the truth:
You rarely get peak ratings.
Actual output depends on sun angle, weather, and season.
Rule of thumb for "usable daily output":

So:
- 100 W panel ≈ 33–35 Ah/day
- 200 W panel ≈ 66–70 Ah/day

5) Choose a Panel Size Based on Your Needs

Daily Ah Needed	Suggested Panel Size
< 25 Ah/day	100 W panel
25–60 Ah/day	200–300 W panel
60–100+ Ah/day	300–500 W+ arrays

SOLAR PANELS CONTINUED

6) Types of Solar Panels
You'll see three main kinds:
Monocrystalline
- Best efficiency per area.
- Works better in partial shade.
- Good choice if weight/space matters.

Polycrystalline
- Cheaper.
- Slightly lower output.
- Fine if size/weight are not critical.

Thin-Film (Amorphous)
- Worst efficiency.
- Works better in low light.
- Usually larger panels for same power.
- Only choose if price/weight matters more than performance

For emergency power: Go mono if you want reliability and quicker charging.

7) Don't Skip the Charge Controller
Must have one between panel and battery.
- PWM Controllers – cheap, OK for small systems.
- MPPT Controllers – more efficient, especially when sun isn't perfect.

Rule: Use MPPT if panel wattage is > 100 W — it squeezes more power into the battery.

8) Cable, Connectors & Safety
- Use thick wiring (minimize voltage drop).
- Fuse between panel → controller → battery.
- Pick marine-grade hardware if you'll expose gear to weather.

9**) Don't Underestimate Seasonal / Weather**
Worst case: Winter + overcast = 30–50% of sticker output.
If you're counting on emergency readiness, size up by another 25–50% over your calculations.

The Bottom Line
✓ Know your actual radio draw
✓ Build around a strong battery first
✓ Pick panels that deliver enough daily amps, not just big watt numbers
✓ Use a good MPPT controller
✓ More panel/battery = more reliability

I want to introduce myself, a newish ham.

My name is Herrie ten Oever and I became a Ham radio operator in 2024 June. I was always interested in radio and when I was 5 years old I used to watch my dad fixing electric gear and I remember trying to help when he was not watching . I experienced what electricity could do and I was hooked!

When I left for the technical school in the Netherlands I knew I wanted to be an electrician.

At home I was building amplifiers, power supplies and broadcasting equipment. I loved radio and then discovered CB radio, talking to Italian and Spanish CB stations. We sent each other QSL cards and I was hooked.

Now I am retired and decided to pick up my old radio hobby and became a radio ham. I have more time and have a lot of radio and antenna projects.

I became a member of the Marlborough radio club and John, the president gave me an antenna build calculator and so I started building my first yagi .. I was playing around on air and before the final tune I hit the Picton repeater with 1 watt .

I am living in the Marlborough sound, so a bit remote - but no worries I love it here!

My latest antenna project was building a 12 element 70 cm yagi on the other side of my 2 meter yagi. I am struggling to trigger the repeater with that one because of a big hill in the way, but the SWR is perfect !

I have lots of fun building antennas and am always looking forward to my next project.

IWishing you all the best and hopefully we can have a QSO one day soon. I love DX on HF so who knows ?

DXCC MOST WANTED

news.com
More than just DX News

1. P5 DPRK (NORTH KOREA)
2. BS7H SCARBOROUGH REEF
3. CE0X SAN FELIX ISLANDS
4. BV9P PRATAS ISLAND
5. KH7K KURE ISLAND
6. KH3 JOHNSTON ISLAND
7. 3Y/P PETER 1 ISLAND
8. FT5/X KERGUELEN ISLAND
9. YV0 AVES ISLAND
10. 3Y/B BOUVET ISLAND
11. VK0M MACQUARIE ISLAND
12. KH4 MIDWAY ISLAND
13. PY0S SAINT PETER AND PAUL ROCKS
14. KP5 DESECHEO ISLAND
15. VP0S SOUTH SANDWICH ISLANDS
16. ZL9 NEW ZEALAND SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS
17. FK/C CHESTERFIELD ISLANDS
18. VK0H HEARD ISLAND
19. FT/T TROMELIN ISLAND
20. EZ TURKMENISTAN
21. ZL8 KERMADEC ISLAND
22. YK SYRIA
23. VP0G SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND
24. XF4 REVILLAGIGEDO
25. KH1 BAKER HOWLAND ISLANDS
26. ZS8 PRINCE EDWARD & MARION ISLANDS
27. FT5/W CROZET ISLAND
28. VK9M MELLISH REEF
29. FT/J JUAN DE NOVA, EUROPA
30. SV/A MOUNT ATHOS
31. HK0/M MALPELO ISLAND
32. PY0T TRINDADE & MARTIM VAZ ISLANDS
33. JD/M MINAMI TORISHIMA
34. KP1 NAVASSA ISLAND
35. KH9 WAKE ISLAND
36. TI9 COCOS ISLAND
37. FT/G GLORIOSO ISLAND
38. VK9W WILLIS ISLAND
39. FT5Z AMSTERDAM & ST PAUL ISLANDS
40. VP8O SOUTH ORKNEY ISLANDS
41. XZ MYANMAR
42. ZK3 TOKELAU ISLANDS
43. 3C0 ANNOBON
44. 1S SPRATLY ISLANDS
45. T5 SOMALIA
46. R1F FRANZ JOSEF LAND
47. KH5 PALMYRA & JARVIS ISLANDS
48. T31 CENTRAL KIRIBATI
49. T33 BANABA ISLAND
50. H40 TEMOTU PROVINCE
51. KH8/S SWAINS ISLAND
52. E3 ERITREA
53. FO/C CLIPPERTON ISLAND
54. VQ9 CHAGOS ISLANDS
55. ZD9 TRISTAN DA CUNHA & GOUGH ISLANDS
56. JX JAN MAYEN
57. VP6/D DUCIE ISLAND
58. 3D2/C CONWAY REEF
59. CY0 SABLE ISLAND
60. 9U BURUNDI
61. 3B7 AGALEGA & ST BRANDON ISLANDS
62. VK9L LORD HOWE ISLAND
63. FO/M MARQUESAS ISLANDS
64. 7O YEMEN
65. VU4 ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS
66. VU7 LAKSHADWEEP ISLANDS
67. CE0Z JUAN FERNANDEZ ISLANDS
68. E5/N NORTH COOK ISLANDS
69. CY9 SAINT PAUL ISLAND
70. VP8H SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS
71. VP6 PITCAIRN ISLAND
72. 5A LIBYA
73. Z8 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
74. 1A0 SOV MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA
75. 5U NIGER
76. VK9X CHRISTMAS ISLAND
77. E4 PALESTINE
78. XX9 MACAO
79. FO/A AUSTRAL ISLANDS
80. TN REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
81. TT CHAD
82. ZL7 CHATHAM ISLAND
83. HV VATICAN CITY
84. H4 SOLOMON ISLANDS
85. 3XA GUINEA
86. KH8 AMERICAN SAMOA
87. VK9C COCOS (KEELING) ISLAND
88. T2 TUVALU
89. V6 MICRONESIA
90. KG4 GUANTANAMO BAY
91. S2 BANGLADESH
92. TL CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
93. J5 GUINEA-BISSAU
94. T30 WESTERN KIRIBATI
95. FW WALLIS & FUTUNA ISLANDS
96. A5 BHUTAN
97. 3D2/R ROTUMA
98. 9L SIERRA LEONE
99. TJ CAMEROON
100. 4U1UN UNITED NATIONS HQ

SWL Short Wave Listening

Shortwave listening (SWL) is absolutely still a thing — just not in the same way it was in the 1970s and 80s.

What is it?
Shortwave listening is tuning the HF bands (roughly 3–30 MHz) to receive long-distance radio transmissions that propagate via the ionosphere. With the right conditions, you can hear stations thousands of kilometres away.

What You Can Hear
International Broadcasters (Fewer than before)

Major players like:
- BBC World Service
- Radio New Zealand Pacific
- China Radio International

Many Western broadcasters shut down shortwave services over the past 20 years, but Asia, parts of Africa, and religious broadcasters are still active.

Utility & Maritime
- HF marine weather
- VOLMET aviation weather
- Military comms (mostly encrypted or digital)
- Time signal stations like WWV

This side of shortwave is very much alive.

Amateur Radio
You can listen to hams on:
- SSB voice
- CW (Morse)
- FT8 and other digital modes

Even without a licence, you can listen to the world — especially during good solar cycles (which we're currently in).

Numbers Stations & Oddities
Yes — they still exist.
The famous UVB-76 ("The Buzzer") still transmits.

It's niche — but dedicated.
There's a solid global SWL community:
- DXers logging rare stations
- SDR users running remote receivers
- Preppers keeping HF capability alive
- Hobbyists who simply enjoy propagation as a phenomenon

The internet didn't kill it. It changed it. Many people now use WebSDRs to listen remotely before buying hardware.

International Signals Heard in the Pacific

Even though not Pacific-based, you'll regularly hear:
- China Radio International
- BBC World Service (via relay transmitters)
- Radio Free Asia

Asia beams heavily into the Pacific region.

From the editor
Craig, Techoman suggested that I add this and I think it's a great idea. I still have my Panasonic receiver I got for my 21st 40 years ago, and my Grundig Yacht Boy. I remember going to very quiet campsites and listening to AM stations who would QSL.

SWLing.com

Your guide to shortwave radio listening, news and shortwave radio reviews

Quick Start Guide to Shortwave Listening (SWLing)

So, now that you have a shortwave radio, understand universal time, how to read shortwave frequencies in kHz & MHz, and how to find a broadcasting schedule--it's time to get on the air. In fact, based on the previous sections you've read, you may have already hopped onto the bands and have found a good broadcast. Below you'll find a Quick Guide to getting on the air. You can print this page and keep the Guide by your radio for quick reference until you get the hang of SWLing.

Not all radios are "old school." Software Defined Radios, like the WinRadio Excalibur, leverage the power of your computer to offer a wide array of features and award-winning performance.

SWLing in four easy steps

1 - Check UTC

Find out what time it is in World Time or Universal Time (UTC)

2 - Check Schedule

Check your shortwave broadcast schedule of choice and look up stations based on current UTC

- Go to the Shortwave Schedule site and click on the "Go" button under the heading "On air now."
- Open your copy of World Radio and TV Handbook.

The listing, whether online or in a book, will always give the following information:

- broadcasting station name
- days broadcasts are made
- the target geographic area (dedicated shortwave listeners don't care where the target geographic area is, by the way; they try to hear it anyway!)
- the broadcast content type
- broadcast frequencies (larger stations may easily broadcast on three frequencies at once)

3 - Turn On & Tune In

Turn on your radio and go to the best broadcast frequency based on the time of day. As a general rule of thumb, lower frequencies are better at nighttime, higher frequencies in daytime.

- On a ***digital radio***, simply input the frequency on the radio keypad or tune up/down to the frequency. Every digital radio is different, so consult your owner's manual for instructions.
- On an ***analog radio***, make sure you have the appropriate shortwave frequency band selected, then tune to the station frequency. Since analog dials are not as accurate as digital tuners, you may need to search a bit to find the broadcast you seek.

4 - Listen

Congratulations! Now you're SWLing!
After you've been tuning in to the world bands for a while, you'll get to know different broadcasters. Unlike your local news media, shortwave news travels with you. That's the glory of shortwave radio. It doesn't care about borders.

If you've found this guide helpful, please consider bookmarking the site and coming back in the future. I would love your feedback, especially if it helps make my guide easier to understand.

Tour our sites

- SWLING POST
- SW RADIO INDEX
- CONTACT US

From our blog

- LATEST NEWS
- REVIEWS
- ARTICLES
- GIFT GUIDE
- RADIO RECORDINGS
- BROADCASTERS
- DIGITAL RADIO MONDIALE

Steps to SWLing

1. Choose a Radio
2. Learn About World Time
3. Find a Station
4. Tune in

Teach your kids about shortwave

Turning on a radio and tuning in the world is not only educational, it's fun and easy. SWLing has been a catalyst for many professional careers in international fields, such as journalism, social sciences, and diplomacy. When your children listen to shortwave and are exposed to languages, stories, music and news from around the world, it sparks their imaginations like no other medium.

SWLing is inexpensive, and--despite this online guide--ultimately doesn't require that you own a computer, have internet service, nor does it require monthly subscription fees of any sort. It is, perhaps, one of today's most cost-effective educational tools you can get for your family.

So are you ready? All you need to do is obtain a good shortwave radio and read this complete, concise, and free shortwave guide.

CLASSIFIED

WANTED

Wanted Ten Tec 538 Jupiter with ATU or 588 Omni -VII with ATU
Must be in good working order
Contact John zl3trr@gmail.com

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