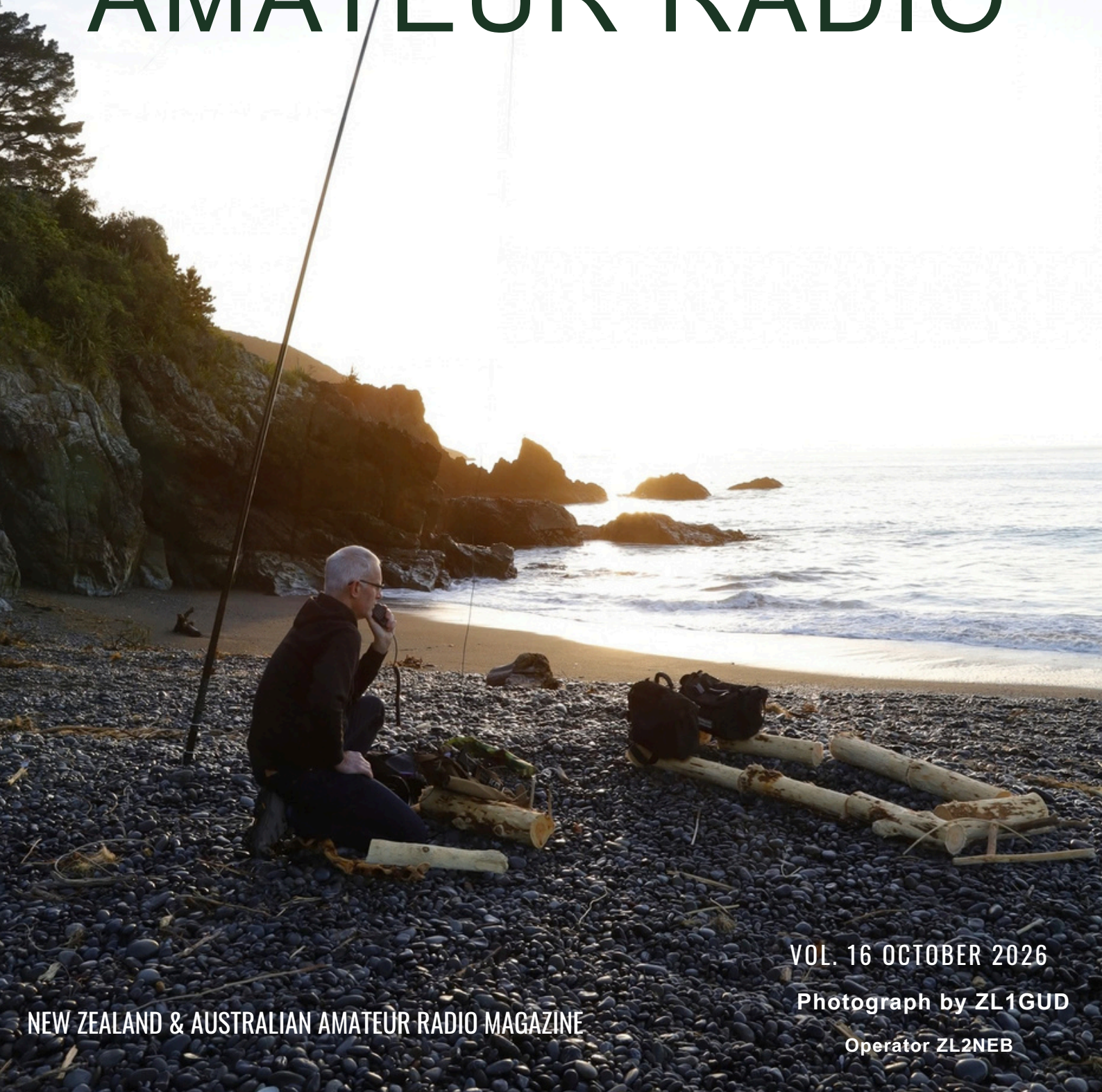


NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO



VOL. 16 OCTOBER 2026

Photograph by ZL1GUD

Operator ZL2NEB

NEW ZEALAND & AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR RADIO MAGAZINE

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

THANK YOU TO ALL THE AMAZING CONTRIBUTORS.

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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Calling New Zealand

See how many towns you can contact in a month

November 2026

Saturday & Sundays for 4 weeks

Time: 6am Saturday until midnight Sunday

HF SSB only

Activators:

5 contacts per town to activate it

Activate as many towns as possible

Portable or Mobile

Chasers: ZL & VK

See how many towns you can log.

Click for Link

Each participant will receive a pdf certificate for participating.

Winners:

Activator (most towns)

ZL Chaser (most towns)

VK Chaser (most NZ towns logged) will receive a printed certificate posted to them.

THE HAM SHACK

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From the Editor

This month has been interesting. After a slow start, we popped up to Topfest, most definitely the best-organised amateur radio conference I've ever been to. Really well-organised, very interesting topics, and all the people that attended were, as always, just very friendly, and we had lots of laughs. That was great.

After the conference, I stayed an extra day, went to go and shoot some photographs for future covers, and then I met up with Gary ZL1GA and his wife Carol, who invited us all around for coffee, scones and brownies. He has a great very neat station.

Then got on the road for the 300km home.

I didn't realise that the month was going so fast, and here I am doing another magazine. We're up to edition 16. You'll notice the cover photograph was taken on the beach at Blenheim, with Nick being the operator.

There's a lot happening in November. We've got Calling New Zealand, the new competition where we will try and contact as many towns or activate as many towns as possible, with a special award for the VK station that contacts the most New Zealand stations.

My linear arrived from Guohetec so my signal should go up about 4 S points.

73S

73 Greg — Editor

When the Editor actually plays HF radio a few times a week.





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10:00AM – 4:00PM**



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- Workshop Repairs
- Morse Code
- How to Become an Amateur Radio Operator
- Scouts NZ - JOTA On The Air Activities
- Coastguard Display



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THAT LAST



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Reminder

International JOTA – JOTI



JOTA-JOTI is the world's largest annual digital and radio event for Scouts and Guides, bringing young people together on the third full weekend of October each year. It's an exciting opportunity to connect with Scouts and Guides from around the world and share a weekend of friendship, fun and discovery.

JOTA-JOTI stands for Jamboree on the Air (JOTA), and Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI). It's organised by the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM).

Whether you are hosting an event, visiting a site, or participating from home, there are plenty of ways to get involved. From early September, you will be able to register your JOTA-JOTI site at vkjotajoti.com.

This year, JOTA-JOTI will take place from Friday 16 October to Sunday 18 October 2026. The theme is 'A peaceful and inclusive world'.

From St George Amateur Radio Society

For over 30 years SGARS has been providing an amateur radio station as a JOTA activity at a combined guide and scout event, the Boree Regatta, held in Sydney. The station, VK2LE has over 500 youth members attending, in two groups of ten (20 in total) every half an hour from 10.30 am Saturday until midday Sunday. The operators are keen to make contact with **New Zealand and Australian JOTA stations**, hence the appeal following.

Paul VK2GX

Jamboree On The Air – JOTA 2026

Amateur radio operators are reminded that Jamboree On The Air, or JOTA, will take place over the third full weekend of October — 16 to 18 October 2026.

JOTA is an international Scouting activity that gives Scouts and Guides the opportunity to communicate with other young people around the world using amateur radio.

Once again, the St George Amateur Radio Society, SGARS, in Sydney, will be operating its club station VK2LE as part of the JOTA activities at the Endeavour Boree Regatta. The event will bring together hundreds of Scouts and Guides, providing them with an opportunity to experience amateur radio and make contacts with other young people.

The SGARS JOTA team would particularly like to hear from amateur radio operators and clubs around Australia and New Zealand who will also be operating JOTA stations this year. The aim is to arrange contacts between participating stations, giving Scouts and Guides the opportunity to communicate with their counterparts in other parts of Australia.

If your club or station will be operating for JOTA 2026 and would like to arrange a contact with VK2LE, the SGARS team would be pleased to hear from you.

For further information or to register your interest, contact the St George Amateur Radio Society through their website at www.sgars.org

JOTA 2026 — 16 to 18 October. Get your station involved and give the next generation of Scouts and Guides the opportunity to experience the magic of amateur radio!



MORSE CODE - STORIES

Caryn KD2GUT

I'm not a sports fan, not even a former sports fan, so how did I end up on one of the teams when World Cup football game to North America?

Ham radio.

"Football on the Air" was what we called ourselves, all 16 of the operating Special Event teams, one in each of the host cities in Canada, the US and Mexico - plus a bonus station. Grateful to avoid the melee and the pricing at the cities' stadiums, we operated instead from the home QTH, from a club station or even from a POTA park.

Though far from the players' pitch, we still shared much with the men who came to North America bringing the World Cup dreams of 48 nations. Both the hams and the players immediately found themselves punished by an unforgiving sun that caused us all to struggle through a tournament of tenacity: June and July in our hemisphere delivered waves of heat and humidity and in my own host city of New York, the temperatures of the North American summer were unrelenting.

For those of us playing our own strategic positions, mercifully in an air-conditioned radio shack, the sun was still a worthy opponent. Uncooperative solar conditions translated into untenable propagation. (Even CW, with its economical use of my 100 watts, didn't help me score big. Had I been a player, I never would have made it into the quarterfinals.)

Those of us who never tuned in to hear or see the athletic action live nonetheless got plugged into the excitement. We called "CQ" and fans pursued us from around the world. We cheered one another on too, celebrating each other's best contacts, sharing stories. Special events bring magic, turning strangers into teammates and turning teammates into family.

As a family, we also grieved. The sudden and unexpected death of our Atlanta host city coordinator several weeks into the tournament left us shaken. On the last day of the event, we gathered on SSB to remember him. In an emotional final call, we acknowledged the Silent Key who had once been one of us.

We have since said "73 for now" and are in the process of exchanging QSL cards so that each host-city coordinator has a collection, a personal keepsake of having been part of a remarkable and unprecedented international effort. I'm still not a sports fan, by the way, but I am definitely a team player.

73

Caryn KD2GUT



Why the POTA VK's say 44 after a QSO

In amateur radio, particularly among Australian operators, saying "44" refers to the requirement of making 44 contacts from each park to qualify for the World Wide Flora and Fauna Award program. This is a common goal for operators participating in this award.

Another suggestion is:

An often heard question ! WWFF'ers always end a QSO with "44"

The first four (4) stands for the four wind directions : North, East, South and West

The second four (4) stands for the four elements : Earth, Water, Air and Fire.

Conclusion

In WWFF amateur radio operations, "44" is more than just a numerical code—it's a meaningful expression that connects radio hobbyists to environmental conservation through symbolic reference to the fundamental aspects of nature. When WWFF operators exchange "44," they're acknowledging their shared appreciation for the natural world and their commitment to celebrating protected wilderness areas through amateur radio. This unique greeting has become a defining characteristic of WWFF communications, instantly identifying participants as members of this conservation-minded radio community and reinforcing the special connection between amateur radio operation and environmental appreciation that defines the WWFF program.

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Latest Beta version of the POTA app

73

Pete ZL4TE

POTA have just released the beta version of their "pota.app", which they have called "next.pota.app". It has been designed with smart phones in mind, but works fine on a full size screen. This is not a full review, more of a note of some newer features in the beta version. Both systems are currently running in parallel. and login is via browser using "next.pota.app".

The actual look and feel is very similar to the original app, however, once logged in the "spots" screen has a number of changes. The page can be viewed in the traditional tile or list format, but now with the additional option of a table. Having the view selection on the "spots" page, is much more convenient than having to change the view by diving into the menu system.

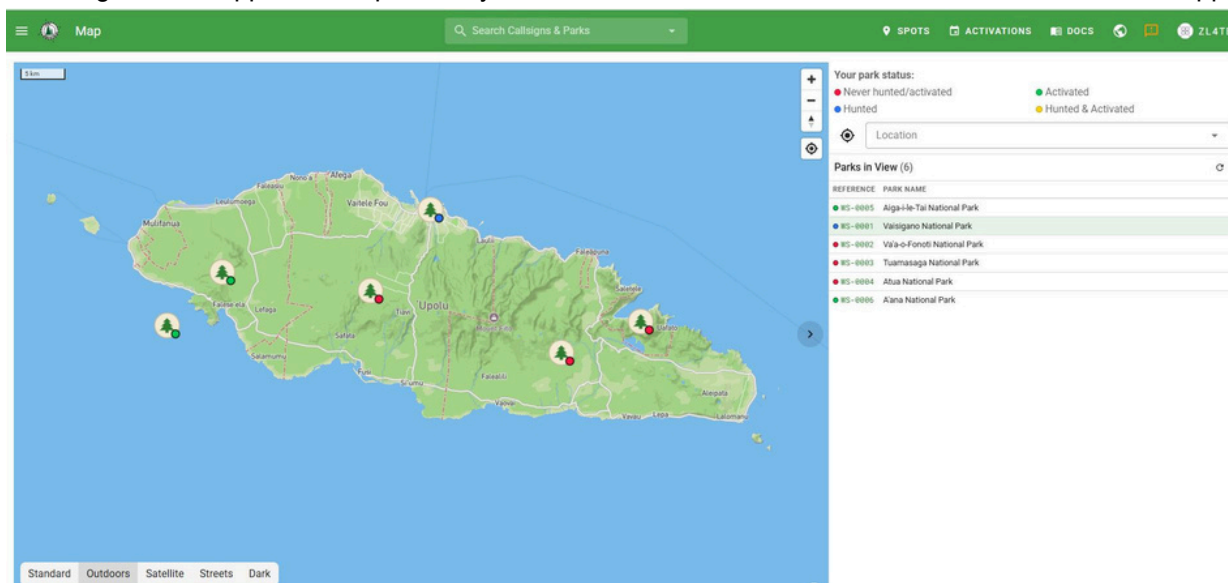
There are a number of new options to refine which spots you wish to see via drop down boxes eg. spot age has options from 10 to 30 minutes in 5 minute increments. The "spot highlight" allows you to select "all time new one" (also coloured purple on the park reference), "you never hunted" which is highlighted in orange on the main list, there are also options for "mixed" or "none". Parks that have been worked before are not highlighted.

A new globe icon allows selection of a number of different languages, and the orange speech bubble is to allow feedback to the programming team.

One feature I particularly like is the new map feature, which shows the parks as before. However now the parks are colour coded, according to your personal data, and is a very useful upgrade.

Some pages appear unchanged, but a notable addition is the option of "dark" mode.

I have been using the new app for a couple of days, and I find it easier to use and more intuitive than the old app.

A screenshot of the POTA app's 'Parks on the Air' view. The top navigation bar is green with a menu icon, a search bar labeled 'Search Callsigns & Parks', and icons for 'SPOTS', 'ACTIVATIONS', 'DOCS', and a user profile 'ZL4TE'. Below the navigation bar are buttons for '+ Add Spot' and 'Upload Log'. The main area shows a table of active spots. The table has columns: Age, Activator, Frequency, Mode, Reference, Park, Region, Spotter, and Comments. The table is filtered by 'Band: All', 'Mode: All', 'Program: All', 'QRT: Show', 'Hunted: Show', 'Spot Highlight: Mixed', and 'Age: 30 min'. The table shows four rows of data, each representing a different park and its current status. The table is sorted by 'Age' and has a 'refresh in 6s' indicator. The table is displayed in 'Table' view.



The NEW Guohetec 1KW Amp

The Ham Shack - Official Agents in New Zealand



GUOHETEC

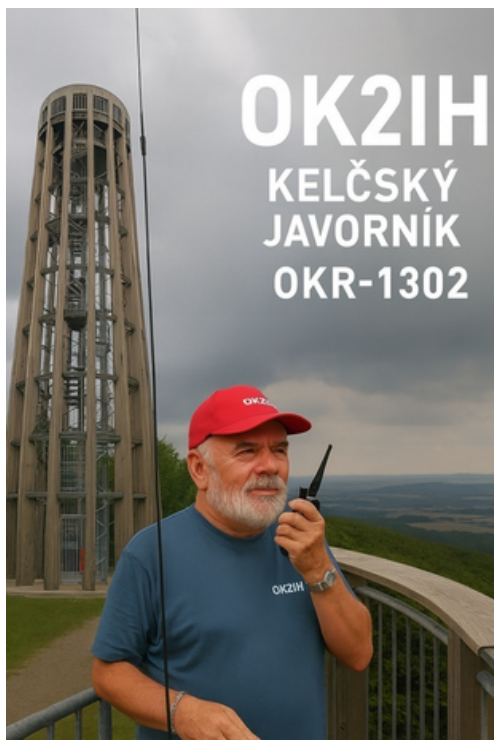
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CAT control protocol;
Remote control

The Amp has arrived and we are putting it through it's paces waiting for the production schedule.



TOTA – Towers On The Air



From Czech Lookout Towers Across the Atlantic – and Perhaps All the Way to New Zealand

When I first began thinking about TOTA, there was no grand strategy behind it and no plan to create a new international amateur radio programme.

It actually began with a very simple question:

Why not lookout towers?

I am a radio amateur and, like many others, I enjoy portable operating. We know SOTA, POTA and many other programmes that give us another reason to take a radio, an antenna and a battery and head outdoors. But the Czech Republic has one particular feature: we have an enormous number of lookout towers and observation towers. You can find them on hilltops, in forests, above towns and even in the middle of flat countryside. We have historic stone towers more than a hundred years old, classic wooden towers and modern structures made of steel and glass.

And one day I asked myself why these towers could not become destinations for amateur radio expeditions.

That is how TOTA – Towers On The Air – began.

At the beginning, of course, I had no idea where this simple idea would take us.

First, we had to find the towers

Coming up with a name for a programme is easy. Creating something that actually works is much more difficult.

We needed to establish the basic rules, create a website, build a system for users and log processing, and above all develop a database of lookout towers.

The database is one of the foundations of TOTA. It is not enough simply to find a structure on a map that looks like a tower. We need to verify that it really fits the basic concept of the programme, determine exactly where it stands, and decide whether it is a suitable destination for an activation.

Gradually, the Czech database took shape, the first users joined, and of course the first activations followed.

At that time, I still saw TOTA primarily as a Czech programme.

But then radio amateurs from other countries began to contact us.

TOTA crosses borders

The first expansion into other European countries was, of course, a great pleasure for me. At the same time, it was not entirely unexpected.

European amateur radio communities are closely connected, our countries are relatively close to one another, and lookout towers are a common feature of the landscape in many parts of Europe.

Then came a moment that changed the whole story.

TOTA crossed the Atlantic.

The programme began to develop in the Caribbean.

For me, that was the first truly big leap – and not only geographically.

Suddenly, this was no longer a Czech project gradually spreading to neighbouring or nearby European countries. TOTA references appeared on the map thousands of kilometres from the Czech Republic, and people I would probably never have met under normal circumstances began working on the programme.

One of them was Luis from Puerto Rico.

Luis and the Caribbean

This was where the whole story became much more personal for me.

Until then, most of the people around TOTA whom I knew were from the Czech Republic or elsewhere in Europe. Suddenly, I was regularly exchanging messages with a radio amateur living on an island in the Caribbean. Together we discussed local lookout towers, the database, the first activations and how best to introduce TOTA to radio amateurs there. Without TOTA, Luis and I would most likely never have met.

And that was when I began to realise something I had never anticipated when the programme was created.

TOWER ON THE AIR (TOTA)

A NEW FRONTIER IN HAM RADIO

By: Luis Gómez, WP4LG



Ham radio has always been a space for innovation, exploration, and community. In late March 2026, I decided to take a step toward that shared essence that unites us as amateur radio operators: bringing into our environment a program that, although it already existed, had not yet taken root in our region. That is how my journey with Tower On The Air (TOTA) began.

acceptance to become the Puerto Rico coordinator, I realized that this project should not remain limited to a single island. That was when I extended the initiative to our fellow ham radio operators in the Dominican Republic, who embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and are already actively working on collecting data on towers and observation sites across their territory.

With the support of the TOTA administrators, we developed our own logos for Puerto Rico and also took the opportunity to create the visual identity of the program in the Dominican Republic, strengthening the regional character of this initiative.

In an initial phase, we managed to gather information on approximately 35 towers in Puerto Rico. These were evaluated and are now part of the program's official database. To identify them, the prefix KPR was established, followed by a number assigned to each tower, creating an organized and easy-to-use structure for activators.

I thought we were creating an amateur radio programme.

But gradually I realised that, at the same time, a network of people and friendships was forming among radio amateurs in different parts of the world.

Luis did not limit his efforts to TOTA in Puerto Rico. He also helped the programme reach a much wider amateur radio audience by arranging for TOTA to be featured in the well-known SWR Magazine.

For a young programme, that was important support.

Until then, we had mainly been talking about TOTA ourselves – through our website, social media, personal contacts and the first activators. Suddenly, readers of an established amateur radio magazine could learn about the programme.

For me, the Caribbean therefore became the symbol of the moment when I first fully realised: TOTA was no longer just a Czech project.

And it was not simply about distance on a map.

Far more important was the fact that someone on the other side of the Atlantic had embraced our idea and begun helping it grow himself.

Behind every country there must be people

Since then, TOTA has continued to expand.

Of course, I am always pleased when we can add another country to the map. But over time I have realised that the number of countries itself is not the most important thing.

Behind every new country there has to be a person.

Someone who knows the local area, the amateur radio community and, of course, the local lookout towers. Someone who helps with the database, tells us when something does not make sense, answers questions from local operators and, above all, helps the programme truly come alive.

That is why national coordinators play such an important role in TOTA.

I do not want TOTA ever to become a programme in which a handful of people in the Czech Republic decide what should happen in Belgium, Spain, Puerto Rico or, one day perhaps, New Zealand.

The basic idea and core rules are shared. But in each country, TOTA must gradually be embraced by the local amateur radio community.

We can provide the system, technical support and experience.

But it is the local community that must give it life.

TOTA in a nutshell

The basic principle of the programme is simple.

Publicly accessible lookout and observation towers that meet the programme criteria receive their own TOTA references. Radio amateurs can activate them on HF, VHF and UHF using various operating modes and then upload their logs to the TOTA system.

When two activators operating from different towers make contact with each other, we call it R2R – Tower to Tower. And that is almost everything you need to know to understand this story.

TOTA is not about how much equipment you can carry up a hill.
The radio is the reason to head outdoors, and the lookout tower is the destination.

When the programme takes on a life of its own
Gradually, we began to see something I could not have predicted when TOTA was created.

The programme develops a little differently in every country.

In some places, individual activators are the main driving force; elsewhere, clubs become involved. In some countries, radio amateurs quickly add new lookout towers to the database, while in others joint or special activations begin to emerge.

Belgium is a good example.



In a relatively short time, an active group of people formed around TOTA there. The programme also began to connect with their existing amateur radio activities and technical systems, and local operators started bringing their own ideas.

Spain is another example.

There, Juan EB4GSN became one of the people who truly embraced TOTA. Spain also showed that TOTA does not have to mean individual activators each heading out to a tower on their own.

Joint and special events began to appear, with several towers activated and multiple operators taking part.

One of these was the special AM26DARK activation, organised in connection with the solar eclipse. Several operators took part in the joint event, and TOTA became not only a reason for individual portable expeditions but also a way to share an amateur radio experience together.

These are the moments I enjoy most about TOTA's international development.

We gave them the basic idea. They are beginning to turn it into something of their own.

At that point, it is no longer simply about what we came up with in the Czech Republic.

TOTA becomes their programme.

Similar stories are gradually emerging in other countries, and ideas often come from them that may ultimately inspire TOTA as a whole.



Friedrichshafen – face to face with the world for the first time

Another important moment came at this year's HAM RADIO exhibition in Friedrichshafen.

TOTA was given space on the Czech Radio Club stand, and for the first time we were able to introduce the programme in person to the international amateur radio community on a larger scale.

Over the three days, around 300 radio amateurs stopped by our presentation.

But the number itself was not what interested me most.

Suddenly, we were face to face with radio amateurs from different parts of the world and could see their reactions. Some already knew TOTA; others were hearing about it for the very first time.

They asked about the towers, activations and the database, and of course one question came up again and again: "Do you have TOTA in our country too?"

It was in Friedrichshafen that I felt very strongly that TOTA had finally moved beyond the stage of being a small project run by a few Czech radio amateurs.

A success that cannot be measured by numbers

Of course, we have statistics.

We can count countries, towers, users, activations and QSOs. All these figures are interesting, and of course we are pleased when they grow.

But when someone asks me what I consider TOTA's greatest success, my answer is none of those numbers. The greatest success is that TOTA is beginning to take on a life of its own.

People I did not know at all a year ago are now helping to manage TOTA in their own countries. Activators are finding new lookout towers. National coordinators are building their databases. Suggestions for improvements are coming in, new links with other amateur radio systems are being formed, and of course more activations are taking place.

Above all, relationships between people are being formed.

Luis in Puerto Rico, Juan in Spain, and our friends in Belgium and other countries are no longer just callsigns in a database or names in an email to me.

This is a side of TOTA that I never planned when I founded it.

And perhaps, in the end, it is the most valuable one.

And now another ocean

When TOTA first crossed the Atlantic and reached the Caribbean, it was a symbolic moment for me. Now we are looking even farther.



To New Zealand.

Together with Philip ZL1PSH, we have already begun preparing the way for TOTA to take root there as well. New Zealand is an especially interesting country for a programme like this. Outdoor amateur radio has a strong tradition there, and local operators are very familiar with SOTA, POTA and portable operating.

But just as in Puerto Rico, Belgium or any other country, we do not want to create New Zealand TOTA from behind a computer in the Czech Republic.

We can provide the system, our experience and technical support, and help build the first database.

But a genuine New Zealand TOTA must be created by New Zealanders.

You know your towers, your landscape and your amateur radio community.

And perhaps some of the people who will one day be there at its beginning are among the readers of this magazine.



When I asked myself the simple question “Why not lookout towers?” some time ago, it certainly never occurred to me that the answer would one day take me from the Czech Republic, through Europe and the Caribbean, all the way to the other side of the world.

And this story is far from over.

So perhaps your next portable activation will not be from a SOTA summit or a POTA park.

Perhaps it will be from a lookout tower – and a new ZL TOTA reference will appear in your log for the very first time.

Philip ZL1PSH activating Mt Holdsworth, SOTA ZL1/WL-008, New Zealand. The 1,470 m summit requires a climb of approximately 1,150 metres from the road end. Could TOTA become another part of New Zealand's outdoor amateur radio scene?

73,
Ivan OK2IH
TOTA founder

TASSIE

HAM-E-CON

HACK THE ETHER:

EDUCATION, INGENUITY, CONNECTION

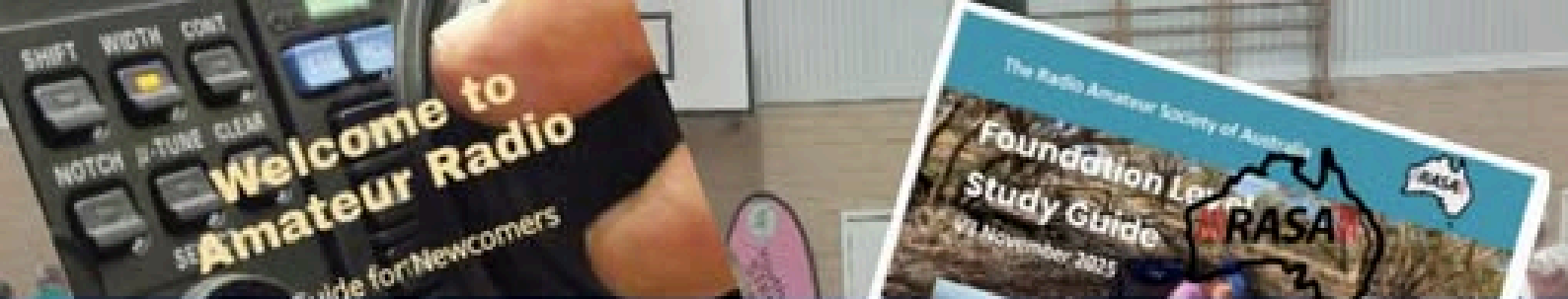
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QTC Magazine

September 2026

The Radio Amateur Society of Australia

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Cheating Revealed at the WRTC

Save JC Maxwell's Resting Place

News From New Zealand

Dits n Dahs

Morse With a Purpose

Contesting

DX Happenings

RASA's Resources - Free For You

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POTA Hawaiian Style: Activating Koke'e State Park

By Neil Smith, K6KWI | Orange County | California



Earlier this year, my family and I traveled to the island of Kauai. The moment the trip was booked, my thoughts immediately turned to the ultimate ham radio vacation goal: a Hawaiian Parks on the Air (POTA) activation. What an incredible opportunity! To get a head start, I used the POTA app to map out the active parks across the island and printed the list for quick reference.

Assembling the Ultimate Travel Rig

My first major challenge was assembling a lightweight kit that was compact enough to clear airline carry-on limits. After weighing my options, I settled on my portable setup:

- Radio: Elecraft KX2 (running 10W QRP)
- Antenna: A homebrew linked dipole cut for the 10, 20, and 40-meter bands
- Support: A 20-foot carbon fiber POTA mast
- Feedline: 50 feet of SOTABeams light weigh coax

The entire setup—along with cables and assorted essential accessories—tucked perfectly into a single, small backpack.



"Happily, the TSA agents couldn't have cared less about the nests of wires and electronics in my backpack."

Flying from Los Angeles to Hawaii is a domestic flight, but running the TSA gauntlet with amateur radio gear can still cause unneeded stress. To play it safe, I packed the collapsed mast and its spiked ground support inside my checked luggage. Everything else stayed with me in the cabin. Happily, the security agents couldn't have cared less about the nests of wires and electronics in my backpack, making the trip completely uneventful.

K6KWI PORTABLE STATION

[iPad (iFTx)] ----(Bluetooth/USB)----> [Digirig Interface]

|
(Audio / PTT)

|
[12V LiFePO4] -----> [Elecraft KX2]

|
(QRP 10W HF)

|
[20' Mast / Dipole]

Destination: 3,200 Feet Above Sea Level

After a few days of relaxing in Poipu, our hosts suggested a day trip up to Koke'e State Park (Designation: US-2215). I knew immediately it would be the perfect location. Sitting at an altitude of 3,200 feet, the park features a vast, flat grassy plateau ringed by scattered picnic tables—an absolute dream layout for an HF deployment.

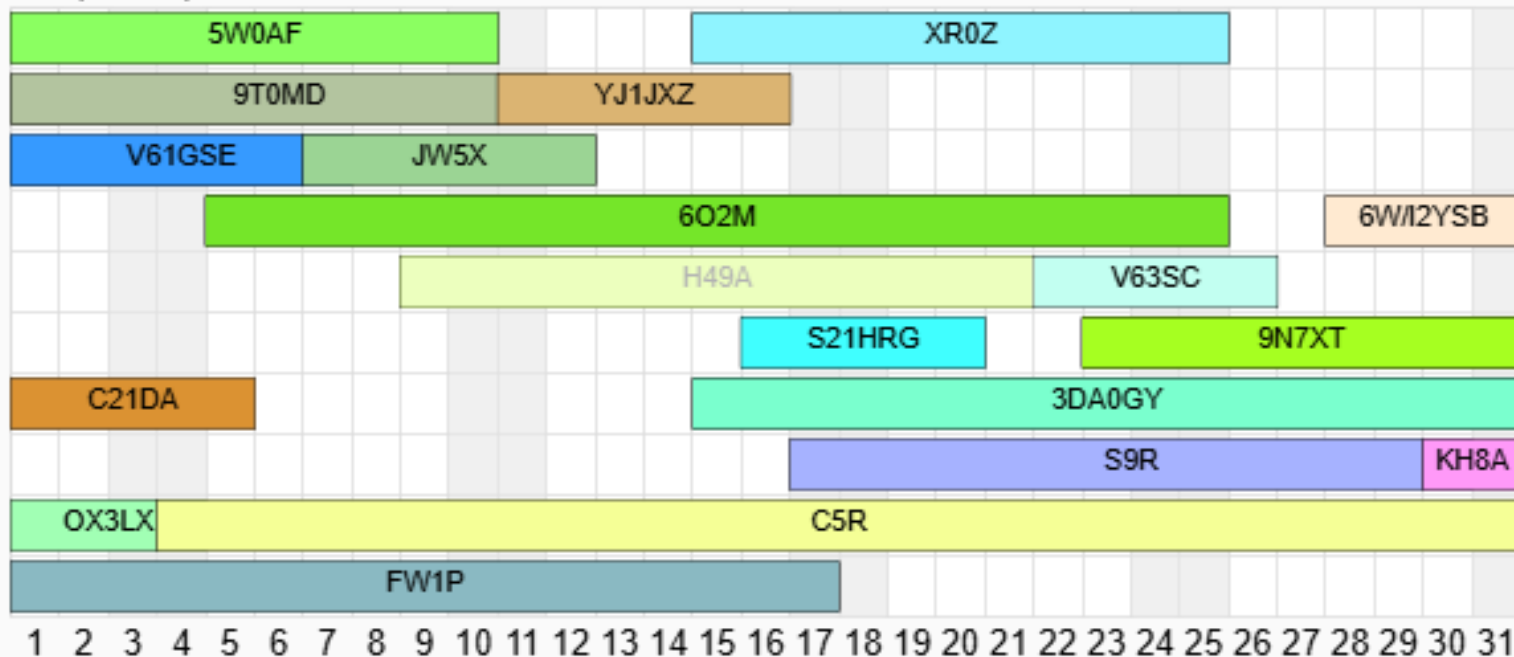
Upon arrival after a long, winding drive, my family dropped me off at the park grounds before continuing on to a nearby scenic overlook. Because my operating window was tight, speed was critical. I immediately went to work, staking the mast, hoisting the linked dipole, and throwing the station together on a "luxurious" wooden picnic bench.





DX WORLD.net
FEATURED DXPEDITIONS TIMELINE

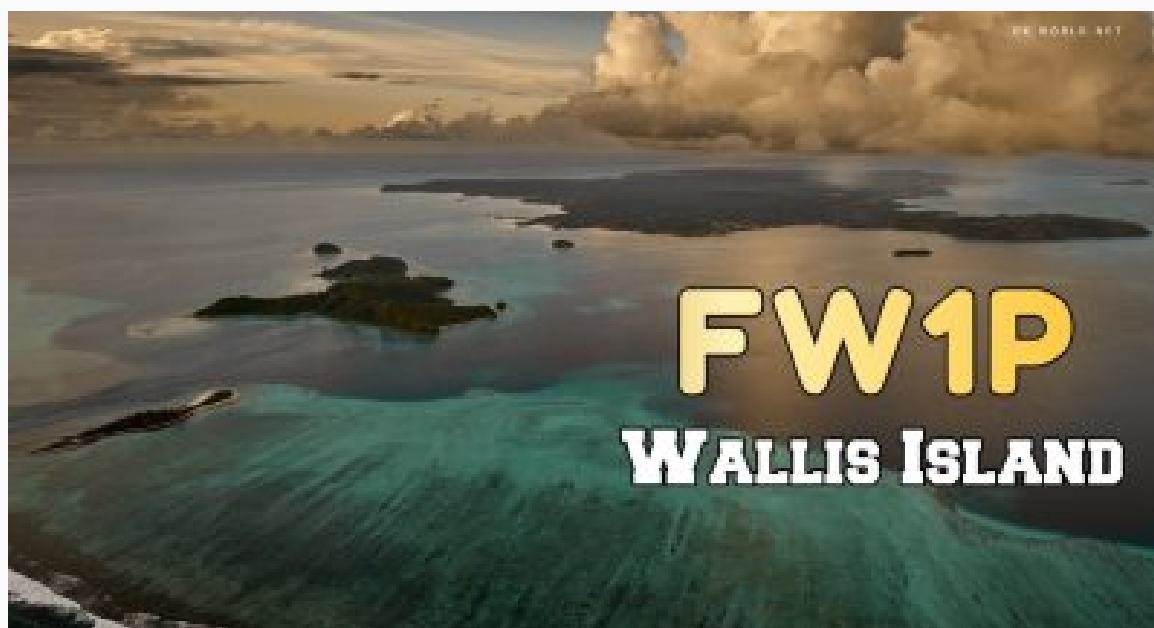
Last update: September 28, 2026



Edited by MM0NDX

OCTOBER

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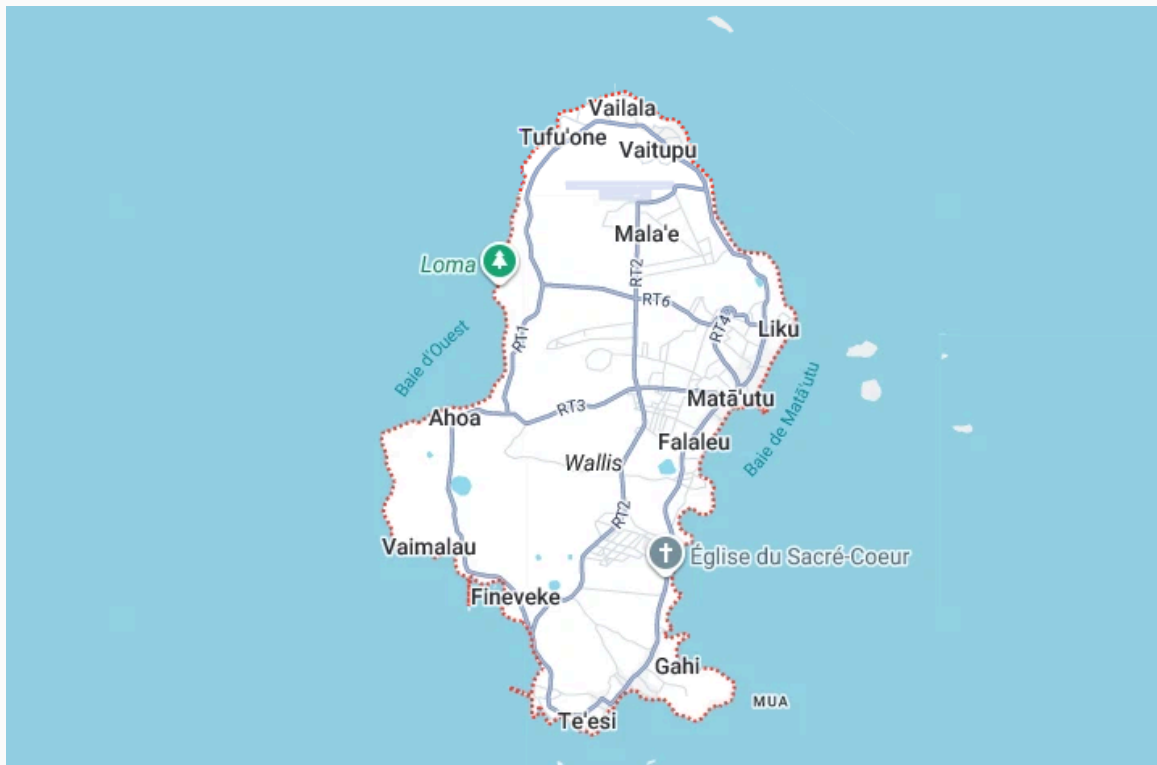


Courtesy of DXworld.net



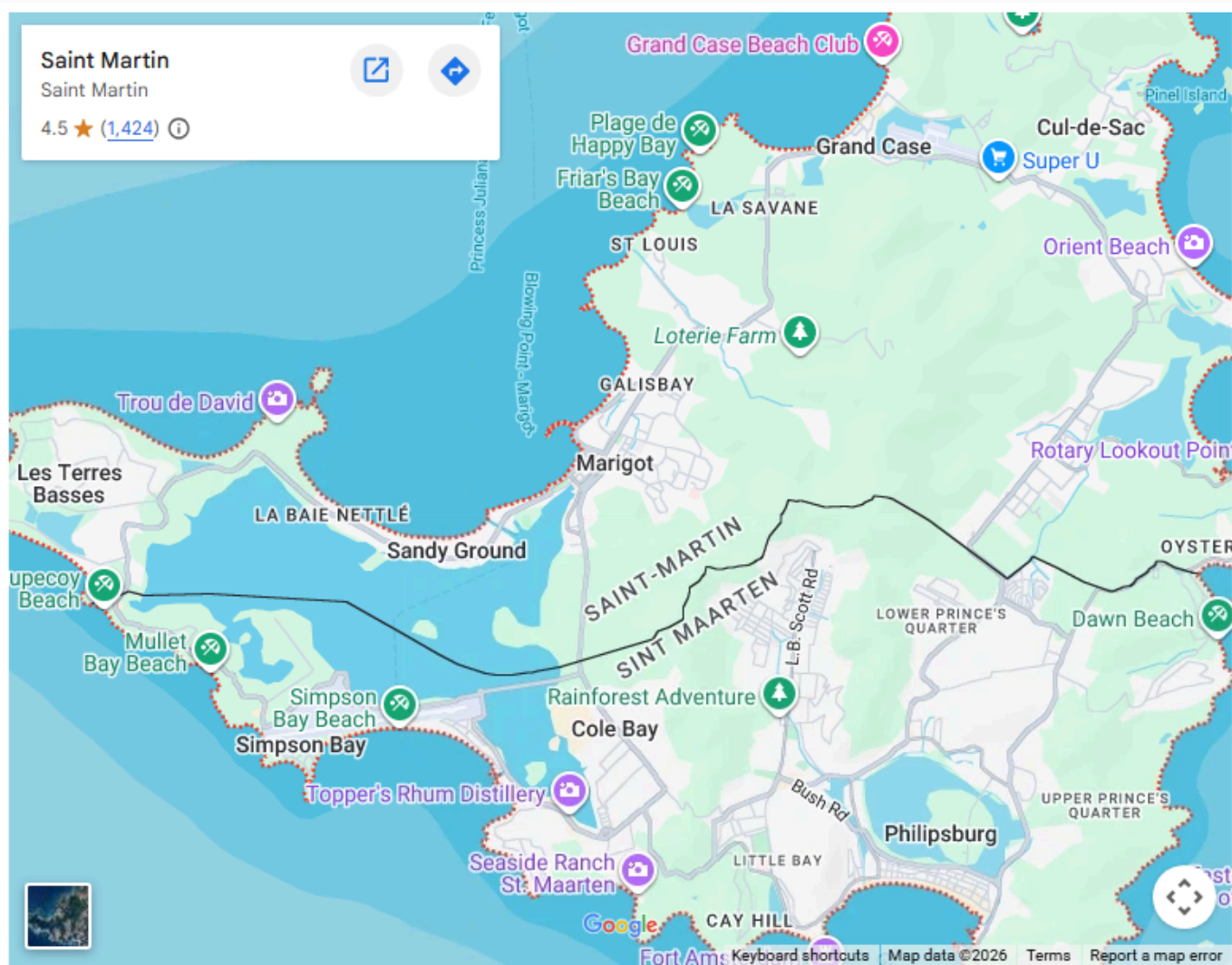


Jacek, SP9FIH announces he's going to be active from Wallis Island as FW1P during September 27 to October 17, 2026.
QTH: Lausikula Chambres D'hôtes. His [webpage](#) is now up and running for more info. Activity mainly FT8. QSL via H/c, LoTW.



FS/K0CD – St Martin

Philip, K0CD will be active during the CQWW CW contest (November 28-29) from St Martin as FS/K0CD. Entry: SOAB, QRP. Some activity before the contest. QSL via H/c, LoTW.



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- 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

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- 6m Carbon
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OH NO!! THE SPARC ROSEBUD RADIOFEST HAS BEEN POSTPONED.

(Don't worry, it's only for this year, and SPARC have something special for you, instead.)

SPARC have been advised by Eastbourne Primary School that their much-needed school renovations have begun, which is wonderful news for the school.

So what will SPARC stage in place of this year's event?

SPARC member Paul VK3DPW has generously offered us the use of his Dromana Triple Drive In theatre, the perfect place to stage SPARC's 2026 GIANT CAR BOOT SALE !!

It will take place on Sunday, November 15th, 2026 at the Dromana 3 Drive In, Nepean Highway, Dromana, commencing at 10:00 am

Goods sold will be anything related to Amateur Radio, CB, marine, 4WD radio, etc., aviation, commercial comms, electronics and IT-related items.

Sellers may hire a site at \$10.00 per car/ute, \$20.00 per trailer or truck. Entry for buyers and the general public will be just \$2.00.

Some tables will be available for hire if required, SPARC to be advised by vendors when booking. (Price per table TBA)

The Rosebud Sea Scouts will supply catering on the day.

Bookings / enquiries email John Ross VK3MK, secretary@sparc.asn.au

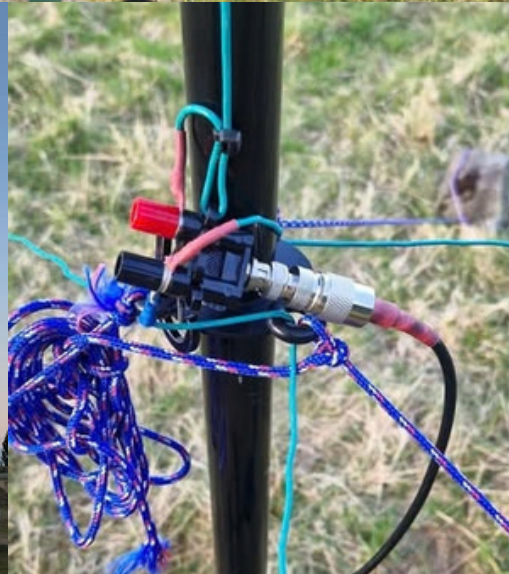


ZL4AT

ACTIVATIONS

Photographs used with permission of
FaceBook page owner/admin





Digital Voice modes and my Experiences with them"

Chris Hattan ZL2CJ (printed with permission)

I've been a Ham for only 4 years now and initially got myself into digital voice aspects of the Hobby, such modes as D-Star, and DMR. My intention was to try out everything in the hobby that I can.

I started off with EchoLink which is an older style connection but still works quite well with many conferences/Nets available. The beauty of EchoLink is you can connect to analogue repeaters. I then found Droidstar <https://droidstar.net/>, an app on the phone which does most digital voice modes (DMR in its various flavours; DMR+, YSF, NXDN, REF, XRF, DSC, P25, M17). To be honest, it was quite good at the time but now is dated and the audio has never been that good. There were links to IRLP and links to 2-metre repeaters as well.

First up I purchased an inexpensive Handheld DMR radio, the TYT MD 390 which also has analogue FM capabilities. There is a DMR repeater here in Hamilton, but you need to programme the radio with a 'code plug'. I initially had help from Doug ZL3DMH, but still struggled to negotiate the art of developing these.

After buying a Icom 52A and Icom 7100, I noticed they had D-Star capability which I wanted to use. Now how to connect to the repeaters and navigate around the system. There was one D-Star repeater in Hamilton which I was able to figure out and started using, however after some time it was removed from service.

Subsequently I came across a SharkRF OpenSPOT4 which meant I could access all of the digital modes and cross-mode as well, <https://www.sharkrf.com/products/openspot4/>

This unit was good, as I could go mobile with my Icom 52A and access all the modes. When going on cruises, I could take it and talk to the world without having to connect to repeaters. It's basically a mobile hotspot, plus I didn't have to configure it with Raspberry Pi and or WPSD software.

Later, I got a SharkRF M1KE VOIP Tranceiver which meant I could access these same networks on a small device via Wi-Fi connection <https://www.sharkrf.com/products/m1ke/> Its a similar interface to the OpenSPOT4 pro but with a PTT button !!

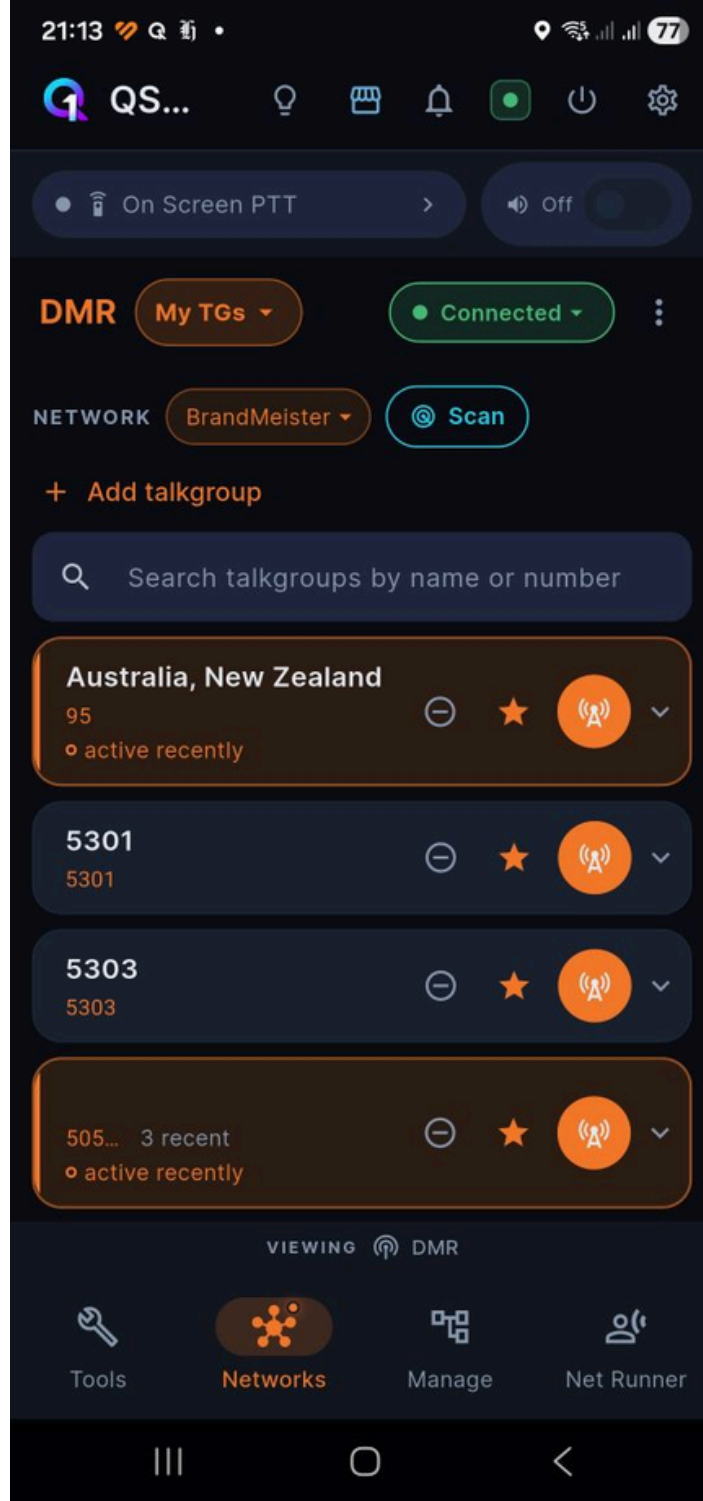
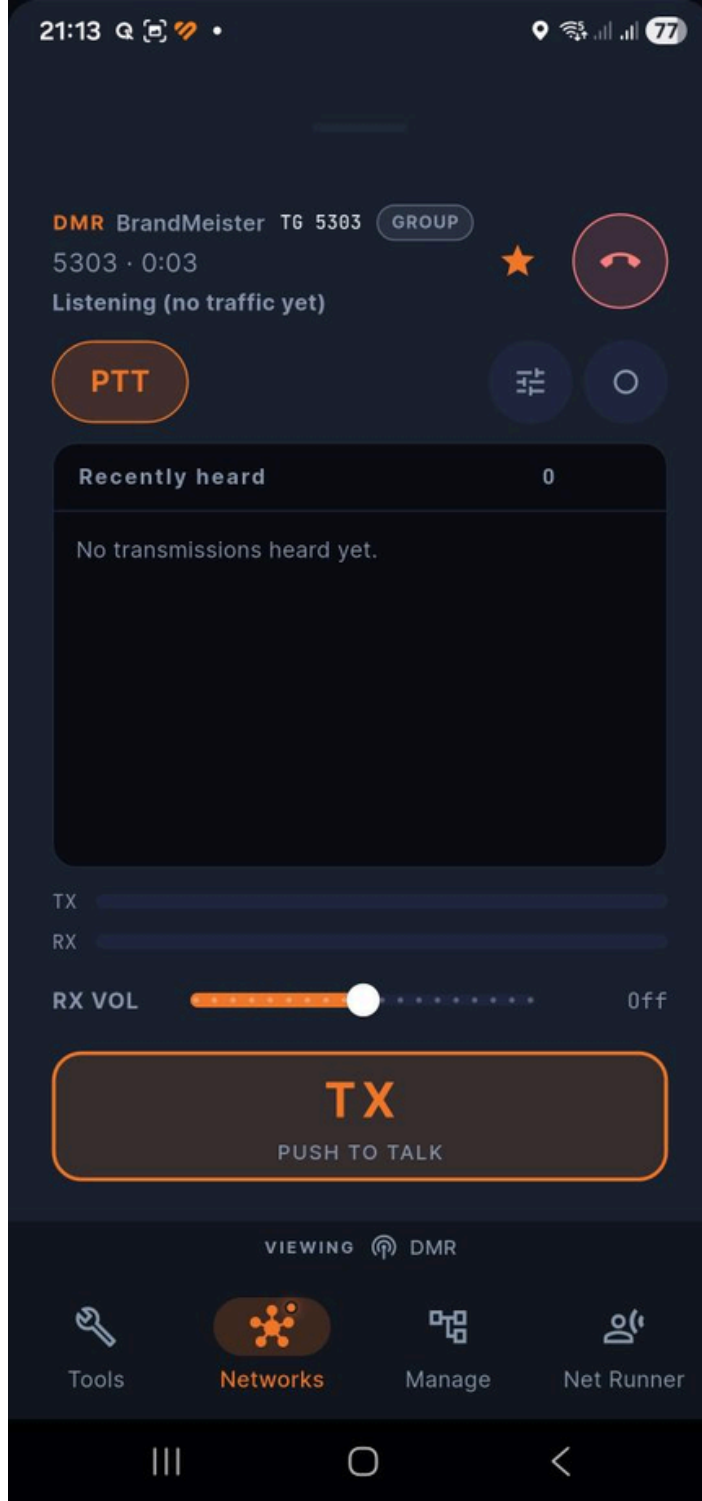
Over the past few months there's been several new software options become available which you can use on your mobile phone, tablet or PC. These apps are rapidly developing making it possible to connect to all the Voice digital modes without requiring any hardware whatsoever. Almost to the point of not requiring any physical radios or VOIP devices like I described above.

This can have advantages as new Hams can use these networks without needing to purchase any new equipment. But then some will say what is this about-it doesn't use "real radios" that is certainly another debate to be had. I'll focus on two new apps in this article which promise so much for versatility and portability.

QSO One <https://qso1.net/> Built by <https://www.grz.com/db/KD8JJK> Frank KD8JJK, "Ham radio without the hardware", a free app. I built QSO One so you can get on AllStarLink, EchoLink, IAX Direct, DMR, System Fusion, and M17 from a single app, without a Raspberry Pi, a radio interface, or a weekend of Linux. It's free. Sign up with your callsign, download it for Windows or Android, and you're on the air in about five minutes. More platforms are coming.

This app has been running some months now and I'm quite excited about it. I've been one of the beta testers for the Android version.

QSO one currently covers the Modes DMR-TGIF, FreeDMR, Brandmeister, YSF, M17, IAX Direct, EchoLink, AllStarLink. As yet no D-Star, but I believe that's coming. Also in the pipeline is IOS support for those with iPhones.



Z3DMR is another new app that was originally set up to cover DMR only but it too is branching out to other networks as in YSF. It's currently available only for the Android platform in the Play Store.

Unlike QSO One it includes DMR Plus which for us in New Zealand covers ZL Turbo network.

With Z3DMR you add the profile of the network then select the Talkgroup. The profile page may benefit from a grouping system to organise the profiles.

Z3DMR



Last heard · New Zealand · 19:11:43

ZL2CJ - Chris

5303 - ZL 3 Region · FreeDMR_NewZealand



0:05

ACTIVITY LOG



TIME	CALLSIGN	TARGET	DUR
19:11:43	ZL2CJ	5303	0:05
19:11:35	ZL1FS	5303	0:08
19:11:22	ZL2CJ	5303	0:08
19:11:10	ZL1FS	5303	0:12
19:10:53	ZL2CJ	5303	0:34
19:10:16	ZL1FS	5303	0:04
19:10:03	ZL2CJ	5303	0:03
18:51:22	YB3BRB	00	0:00
18:51:18	ZL2CJ	00	0:00



Group Call

530 - ZL National



PTT

Tap to talk



Radio



Profiles



Settings



Profiles

+ Add Profile

ZL

ZL2CJ

TG 5303 · BM_5051_Australia

Connect



ZT

DMR+ IPSC2

zl turbo

TG 530 · IPSC2_NewZealand

Connect



DV

FREEDMR

dvnz

TG 530 · FreeDMR_NewZealand

Connect



83

SYSTEMX

83

TG 83 · SystemX_New Zealand



Radio



Profiles



Settings



I hope this article has been useful. Just goes to show how far the digital voice world has progressed over the last few months, and I may give a presentation on it at the Waikato VHF Group's December meeting in Tauranga.

Feel free to contact me if you want to know anything more

Regards

Chris Hattan ZL2CJ

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We try and give the BEST service, answer EVERY call and help in whatever way we can..

Also we are one of the few radio businesses that are on the air, playing radio, doing an activation, chasing, calling CQ or just ragchewing on HF - almost every day. We actually use all the gear we sell!

 Soren Low
August 1 at 4:00PM · 🌐

A shout out to Greg ZL1GUD from The Ham Shack after Aviation Security confiscated my antenna pole at Auckland Airport on Friday morning. Greg answered by 7.15am text and offered to meet me at Christchurch on my arrival with a new SOTA Beams Carbon 6. Talk about great customer service!

I took my new pole up Dumblane ZL3/CB-527 today for a pleasant activation near Hanmer Springs. Thanks Greg for hooking me up with the new pole, and of course to the chasers!



Greg at the HAM Shack provides absolutely outstanding service and is always incredibly generous with his time. He's more than happy to answer questions, offer advice and share his considerable knowledge, whether you're buying something or simply looking for a bit of guidance.

It's this genuine willingness to help fellow amateurs that makes the HAM Shack such a pleasure to deal with.

Ben ZL4AT

Like bad service, good service is something that sticks with you as a customer. Greg at The Ham Shack on the other hand has set the bar very high, and I've been incredibly impressed with his service. Emails answered, he is happy to take a call and discuss options and ideas, even if you aren't buying something. He is genuinely happy to talk Radios and trouble shoot ideas. If you want someone to show you the POTA "ropes" he will do that as well. Ah and don't forget he also publishes what may be the best Amateur Radio Magazine that the Ham World has seen. Keep up the great work.

PHIL ZL3PAE

Great service and very quick delivery. Arrived in Hamilton 1 day after I ordered it. Will definitely buy more from the Ham Shack....

Oh, I already have bought EFHW antenna kit.

ZL1BOG

Thank you so much for your awesome support. It's great that you answer your phone and you are "always" so willing to help & reply with a solution in a very timely manner. Thanks again.

Cheers Grant ZL1GGL

I've purchased a few products from The Ham Shack over the last year. I've been impressed with their service, speedy delivery and knowledgeable advice. One thing that I really appreciate is that Greg is an operator himself and uses the products he sells for his own activities. This means that the answers I get are based on practical real world experience. That's a point of difference that I really value.

Nick ZL2NEB

As for the equipment I bought through you, I was actually surprised that you were able to supply non stock Sotabeam equipment. I honestly didn't expect that, I was expecting "sorry, we don't stock that".

The Contest Console for the IC-7300 mk2 works like a dream. It has changed the way I use the radio and my display settings. For it to arrive from the UK in less than a fortnight was amazing. Thank you

Pete ZL4te

Good quality pole, very heavy duty. Great packaging, quick shipping, and as always awesome service from the Ham Shack! Gareth

I bought a linked dipole from The Ham Shack and am very happy with the antenna, I wanted different bands then the standard and this was no problem and got the antenna in a couple of days. It works really well, has a low swr and good results on all the bands.

Thanks very much ! 73 ZL2HTO

POTAHOLICS

GOTO Potaholics FB page



PORTABLE ANTENNA BUILD DAY

with Rob, Grant & maybe the king of endfeds, Ian

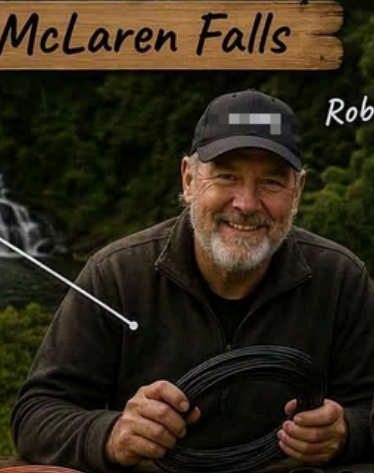
Would you be interested in coming along to **LEARN TO BUILD & TUNE YOUR OWN 40m INVERTED DIPOLE?**

Rob can supply the basic components needed at a **very small cost** and you can learn how to create an awesome **NVIS antenna** that just rocks.

at McLaren Falls



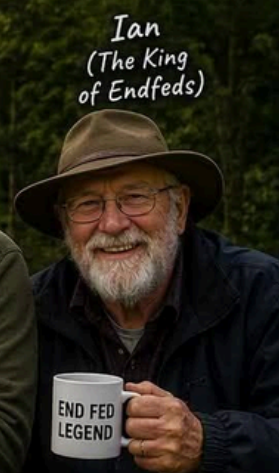
Simple Effective NVIS Just rocks!



Rob



Grant ZL1GGL



Ian (The King of Endfeds)



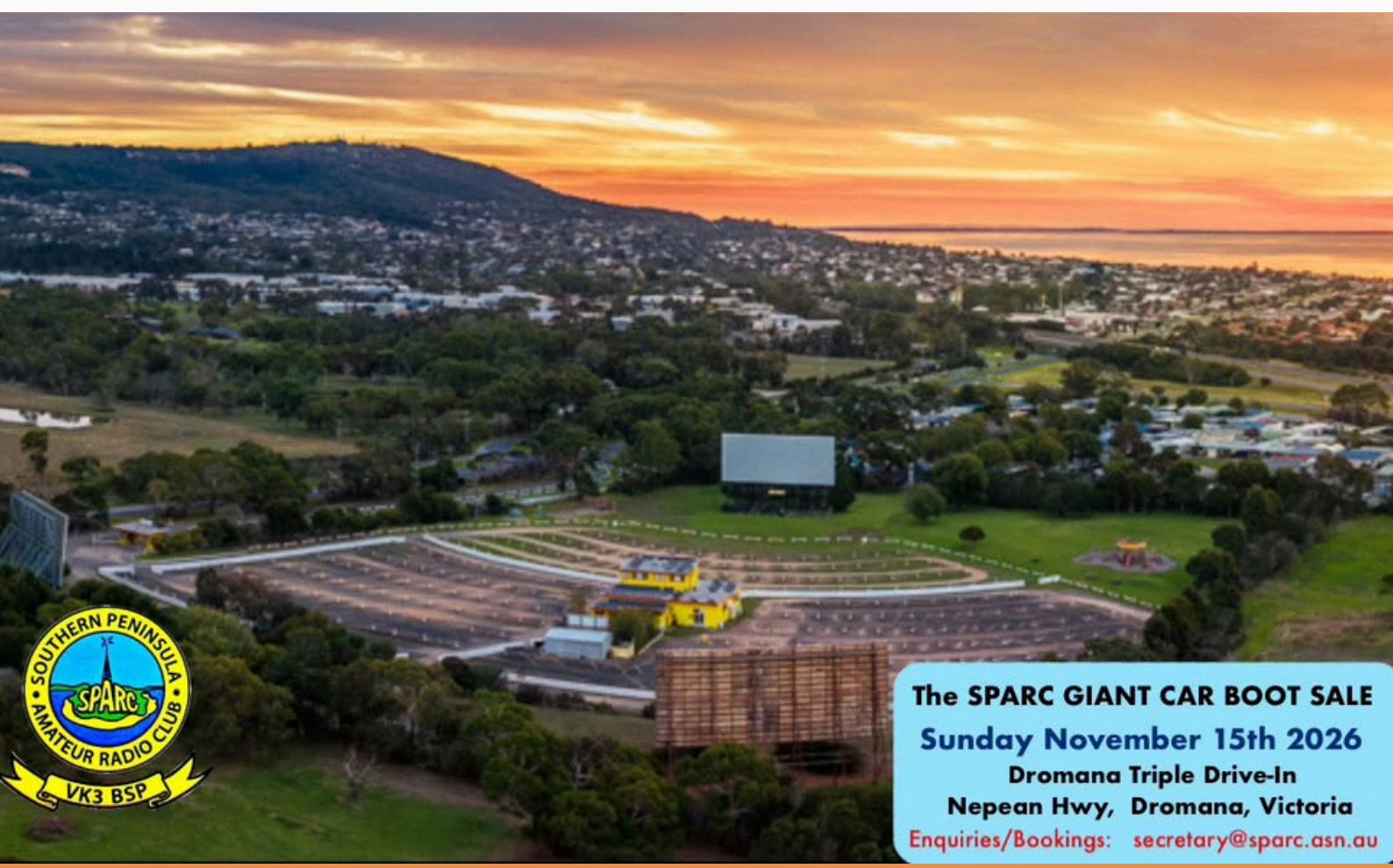
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR THOUGHTS...

And if anyone is interested??

- ✓ LEARN
- ✓ BUILD
- ✓ TUNE
- ✓ OPERATE

40m NVIS INVERTED DIPOLE AWESOME RESULTS!

Cheers Grant ZL1GGL



The SPARC GIANT CAR BOOT SALE
Sunday November 15th 2026
Dromana Triple Drive-In
Nepean Hwy, Dromana, Victoria
Enquiries/Bookings: secretary@sparc.asn.au



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0249581588



HF DX Conditions — October 2026

Australia and New Zealand

Prepared 30 September 2026

October should be a useful but variable DX month for Australian and New Zealand operators. The seasonal setting is favourable: we are just beyond the September equinox, when balanced illumination of the two hemispheres often improves long-distance north–south paths and gives 20, 17 and 15 metres more opportunities than they had through the Southern Hemisphere winter. The limitation this year is solar output. NOAA's operational forecast places the daily 10.7 cm solar flux mainly between 88 and 105 solar flux units, with an October average of about 97. That is enough to support worthwhile higher-band openings, but it is not a promise of all-day 10-metre propagation.[1]

The month begins from a reasonably settled base. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology reported normal global HF conditions at low, middle and high latitudes late on 29 September and expected mostly normal propagation through 1 October. [2] At the same time, the Sun had become quieter: observed F10.7 flux fell from 121 on 23 September to 95 on 28 September, while the daily sunspot number fell from 142 to 46.[3] NOAA expects solar activity to remain at very low to low levels through at least 24 October.[4]

This combination points to 20 metres as the month's workhorse, with 17 and 15 metres providing productive but less dependable openings. Twelve and 10 metres should still be checked every day, particularly on north–south and trans-equatorial paths, but openings may be shorter and more selective than during the strongest part of Solar Cycle 25. The geomagnetic outlook

The most important forecast risk is not low solar flux but recurring geomagnetic disturbance. NOAA's 29 September outlook assigns the highest October planetary Ap values to 2–4 October and 21–24 October. The weekly forecast also identifies a possible G1 minor geomagnetic storm on 22 October, with active conditions around 4–6, 21 and 23–24 October, and unsettled conditions during 7–8 and 11–14 October. These disturbances are expected to come from recurrent coronal-hole high-speed solar-wind streams.[1] [4]

For DXers, that can mean reduced maximum usable frequencies, more fading and weaker long paths. Routes that approach the geomagnetic poles are usually the first to become unreliable. The effects can also continue after the index itself begins to fall, so a quiet reading immediately after a disturbed day does not always mean the ionosphere has fully recovered. The broad periods currently forecast to be quietest are 9–10 October, 15–20 October and 25–30 October, when the planetary Ap forecast is generally 5. These are the dates to favour for difficult long-haul paths and serious low-power attempts. Forecasts beyond seven days are based heavily on the recurrence of solar features, so these windows should be treated as planning guidance and checked again nearer the day.[1] [5]

Band-by-band prospects

80 metres

Eighty metres should continue its seasonal move away from the excellent winter low-band period. Longer spring daylight increases daytime D-region absorption, and atmospheric noise will begin to rise as the weather warms. Even so, the band should still offer good trans-Tasman and regional coverage after dark, with the best long-distance chances from the middle of the night through local sunrise.

Quiet geomagnetic nights will be especially valuable. Listen near dawn for weak signals from Europe and the Americas, and use the local sunset period for regional contacts. A low-noise receiving antenna may provide more benefit than extra transmitted power when static and suburban noise dominate.

40 metres

Forty metres should be one of October's most reliable bands. Expect useful regional and Pacific coverage from late afternoon, followed by stronger long-distance propagation after sunset. The band should remain productive through the night and often into the period around sunrise.

For VK and ZL stations, Europe, the Middle East and Africa are worth watching during the late-afternoon and evening transition, while North and South American paths can strengthen as darkness spreads across the Pacific. During geomagnetically active periods, 40 metres may stay usable after 15 and 20 metres have weakened, although absorption and auroral effects can still damage high-latitude paths.

20 metres

Twenty metres is the best overall DX prospect for October. It should open during the morning and remain useful through the afternoon, with openings often continuing well after sunset. Signals toward Asia and the Pacific should be common during daylight. Paths toward North and South America are most promising from local morning into early afternoon, while Europe, the Middle East and Africa should become more competitive from late afternoon into the evening.

On the quieter dates, 20 metres may support worldwide contacts across much of the day. During the disturbed periods, it will probably remain the highest dependable band after 15 and 10 metres have closed. It should be the first band to check when conditions look uncertain.

15 metres

Fifteen metres is likely to be the strongest of the traditional high bands, but it will vary considerably from day to day. On quiet days with flux near or above 100, expect useful openings into Asia and the Pacific through the daytime. North and South American paths may appear during the local morning and early afternoon, with Europe more likely later in the day.

The equinox season can extend north–south openings and make modest solar flux more productive than the raw number suggests.[6] However, a rise in Kp or Ap can close 15 metres quickly. Start high on quiet mornings, then move down to 20 metres as the maximum usable frequency falls.

12 and 10 metres

Twelve and 10 metres are the month's opportunity bands rather than guaranteed performers. With daily flux mostly forecast below 105, neither band should be expected to stay open worldwide for long periods. Nevertheless, October's seasonal geometry can produce strong short-lived F2 openings, especially over north–south and trans-equatorial paths.[6] Check 10 metres from late morning through the afternoon, then watch 12 metres as the higher band begins to fade. Asia, the Pacific and equatorial paths are the most likely first targets. Digital activity, propagation beacons and the reverse-beacon network can provide early warning, but a quiet band is not necessarily a closed band—calling CQ may be enough to expose an opening.

The most useful operating windows

For both VK and ZL stations, sunrise and sunset remain the most important daily checkpoints. Around the equinox, the day-night terminator is favourably aligned for very long paths. Thirty, 40 and 80 metres benefit as D-region absorption falls, while 20 and 17 metres can remain supported by an ionised F region after the ground path has entered darkness.[6] The Bureau of Meteorology’s propagation guide confirms the underlying pattern: daytime ionisation raises usable frequencies, the D region absorbs lower-frequency signals, and night-time depletion reduces absorption while leaving the F2 region available for communication.[7]

As a practical starting point, try the Americas on 20, 17 and 15 metres during the local morning, Asia and the Pacific through the middle of the day, and Europe, the Middle East and Africa from late afternoon into the evening. At night, concentrate on 40 and 30 metres, with 80 metres becoming more attractive toward midnight and dawn. These are broad windows, not fixed appointments; your latitude, antenna take-off angle and the changing daylight at the other end of the path can shift them by several hours.

On a genuinely quiet day, begin on the highest band showing activity and work downward as darkness approaches. If Kp rises to 4 or higher, expect the upper bands and polar routes to deteriorate first. Try more equatorward paths, shorten the path, or move down one or two bands. Solar flares are a different problem: their X-rays increase D-layer absorption on the sunlit side of Earth and can cause a sudden HF fadeout even when geomagnetic indices had been quiet.[8] Three important October weekends

The Oceania DX Contest SSB section runs from 0600 UTC on 3 October to 0600 UTC on 4 October. Unfortunately, the current forecast places it inside the first disturbed interval, with F10.7 near 90 and planetary Ap around 15–20. Conditions may be uneven, so 20 and 40 metres are likely to carry much of the traffic. Fifteen and 10 metres should still be checked regularly because even a brief opening will attract strong activity from stations specifically looking for Oceania.[1] [9]

The Oceania DX Contest CW section, from 0600 UTC on 10 October to 0600 UTC on 11 October, has a better outlook. Solar flux is forecast near 98–100, with Ap 5 on the 10th and 9 on the 11th. That combination, together with CW’s ability to produce contacts at lower signal-to-noise ratios, could make this the more productive of the two Oceania weekends.[1] [9]

The CQ World Wide DX Contest SSB runs from 0000 UTC on 24 October through 2359 UTC on 25 October. It falls at the end of the second forecast disturbance cluster. The present outlook gives 24 October an Ap of 12 and F10.7 of only 88, followed by a marked improvement on 25 October to Ap 5 and F10.7 of 98. If that pattern holds, the second UTC day could be noticeably better than the first, particularly on 15 and 20 metres.[1] [10]

OceaniaDXcontest

83rd OCEANIA DX CONTEST (OCDX) - 2026

 06:00 UTC 	 START TIME 	 END TIME 
 PHONE (SSB)	06:00 UTC Saturday, 3 October 2026	06:00 UTC Sunday, 4 October 2026
 CW	06:00 UTC Saturday, 10 October 2026	06:00 UTC Sunday, 11 October 2026

BANDS: 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m
EXCHANGE: RS/RST + SERIAL NUMBER
FULL DETAILS & LOGS: oceaniadxcontest.com

Sv3ora Antenna Noise Blanker (NR-1)

Quick reference manual

Version 9.0

Contact Kosta sv3ora@qrp.gr



What is the NR-1

The NR-1 is an RF interference removal device (Noise Blanker type), which allows the removal of impulse-type noise in the HF radio spectrum.

The frequency range, in which the NR-1 has been tested to operate, is from 1.6MHz to over 70MHz (modification for lower is possible). It is wideband and it can be used inside and outside the radio amateur bands (e.g. for listening to commercial shortwave stations too). No additional noise antenna is required for its operation.

What kind of noise does the NR-1 remove

NR-1 is a type of Noise Blanker and therefore it only removes impulse-type noise. This noise usually takes the form of pulses or "spikes" of short duration and high amplitude. Its repetition rate can vary from a few Hz to a few KHz. In the waterfall, this noise may appear like repeating horizontal lines that cover most (if not all) of the band. Such noise may be caused by anything that generates sparks in devices such as:

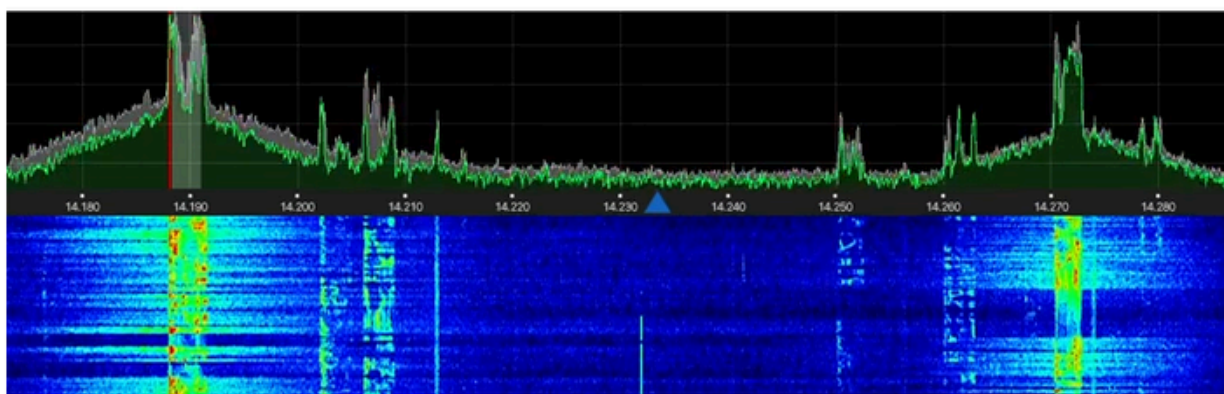
- Faulty power line transformers and insulators
- Motors brushes/commutators (elevators, household electrical appliances, etc.)
- Internal combustion engines spark plugs (cars, motorbikes, generators, etc.)
- Faulty (sparky) inverters and switching power supplies (solar panels, chargers, LED lamps, routers, etc.)
- Any other device (defective or not) that produce sparks one way or the other.

The NR-1 is exceptionally effective on power-line noise, whereas other noise removal devices struggle.

Comparison of the NR-1 with common (internal) noise blankers of radios

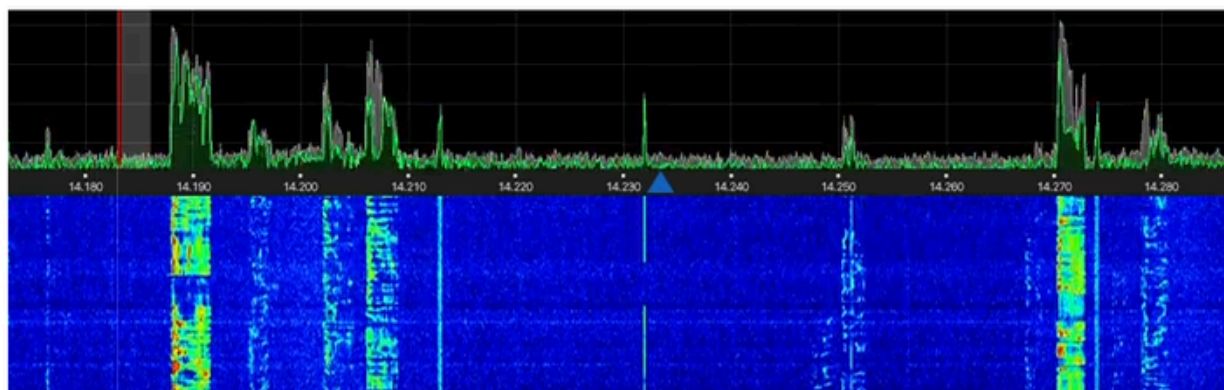
The NR-1 works directly on the antenna side and not in the intermediate frequency that common radios/receivers noise blankers work on. Furthermore, the principle of operation of the NR-1 is not based on cutting-off of amplifiers, unlike common noise blankers do. Because of these, the NR-1 has a number of important advantages, compared to common internal Noise blankers of radios, which are summarized as follows:

- NR-1 removes noise before it even reaches the receiver. Because of this, the front-end RF stages of the receiver are unaffected by noise. This improves the receiver dynamic range, as the AGC is unaffected by noise. In contrast, a common internal noise blanker, removes the noise after it has first passed through the internal circuits of the receiver.
- NR-1 completely cleans out the waterfall display of modern transceivers. In contrast, common internal noise blankers (eg. IC-7300) leave the noise displayed on the waterfall, when they manage to clean the audio (IF).
- NR-1 removes high-level, high-repetition-rate noises that common internal noise blankers usually cannot cope with.
- NR-1 is not affected by strong near-by signals. Instead, common internal noise blankers perform poorly when there are strong near-by signals and they distort the signal quality of the station we want to hear. This distortion caused by the common noise blankers, is the reason most HAMs prefer to listen with the noise blanker switched off.



Internal noise blankers of radios (above): **Distortion on strong signals.**

NR-1 noise blanker (below): **No distortion on strong signals!**



- NR-1 can be used by many radios at the same time. Because it is an external device, it can be connected to various radios/receivers without the need to modify them.
- NR-1 has a built-in 8-position preselector and helps eliminate intermodulation (birdies) caused by strong local medium and shortwave stations, on RF direct sampling radios (eg IC-7300). The preselector is relatively wideband and does not affect the sensitivity or the waterfall spectrum in the amateur and commercial shortwave bands, even at big spans.
- NR-1 has built-in variable gain preamplifier and variable attenuator. Preamplification is particularly useful in the high frequency bands, where some radios have limited sensitivity. Variable attenuation helps to reduce band noise for more comfortable listening to mid/high strength stations.

Comparison of the NR-1 with other noise removal systems

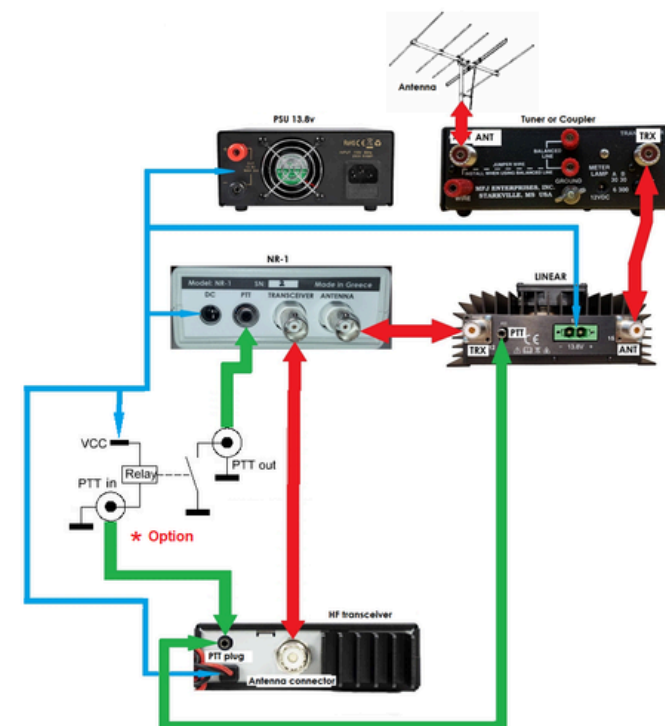
The types of noise encountered in shortwave are many and varied. Therefore the NR-1 does not make obsolete the other noise removal technologies, such as the QRM eliminator/X-phaser and the NB/DSP of the radios. Its purpose is to work either independently or in cooperation with them to achieve the best possible result, depending on the type of noise. Nevertheless, the NR-1 has significant advantages over devices such as the QRM eliminator/X-phaser, which can be summarized as follows:

- NR-1 does not require a second (noise-sense) antenna/coaxial-line to operate. Unlike QRM eliminators, NR-1 does not require an additional "noise-sense" antenna and therefore no second coaxial cable out of the shack. The main transmit and receive antenna already in use, is sufficient.
- NR-1 is easy to set up. In contrast, QRM eliminators require systematic testing of various noise antennas in different locations to perform satisfactorily.
- NR-1 removes noise from every direction simultaneously. In contrast, QRM eliminators, depending on the noise antenna setup and their configuration, remove noise from one direction only each time. If the noise originates or "travels" through cables and reaches the antenna from different directions, QRM eliminators do not perform well. The NR-1 does care about the direction of the noise and therefore it is exceptionally effective on power-line noise.
- NR-1 removes more than one noise sources simultaneously because its principle of operation is not related to the phase of the noise.
- NR-1 does not require constant adjustment. Once set for one band, it usually does not need to be reset. In contrast, QRM eliminators require resetting every few tens of KHz or so.

How to connect the NR-1

The NR-1 is connected between the transceiver (or receiver) and the antenna. If there is a Linear in between, the NR-1 is connected between the transceiver and the Linear. Under no circumstances should one connect the NR-1 between the Linear and the antenna because it may be damaged. The NR-1 has been successfully tested with radios that have a maximum RF output power of 200W in SSB mode. However, as far as propagation allows, it is recommended to use the lowest power possible. Additionally, when tuning with tuners/couplers it is a good practice to use as little power as possible during tuning to avoid stressing the NR-1 and your transceiver.

The following picture shows an example of the wiring of a typical radio amateur station. The blue lines are the power supply to the various devices. The red lines are the radio signals (coaxial cable). The green lines are the PTT control signals. An example of an OPTIONAL PTT relay isolator is shown, but please read the warnings!



*** Option**
Optional external PTT isolation
(useful when there is "RF in the shack" or not true PTT ground present)
(warning! with this option, VCC present on PTT on key up)

Interesting facts about the NR-1

The components used in the NR-1 are of very good quality and most of them are from known brands. The following components and their associated companies are listed as examples:

ALPS potentiometers and knobs

Philips, Samsung, Vishay semiconductors

Substantial Omron relay

Vishay Resistors

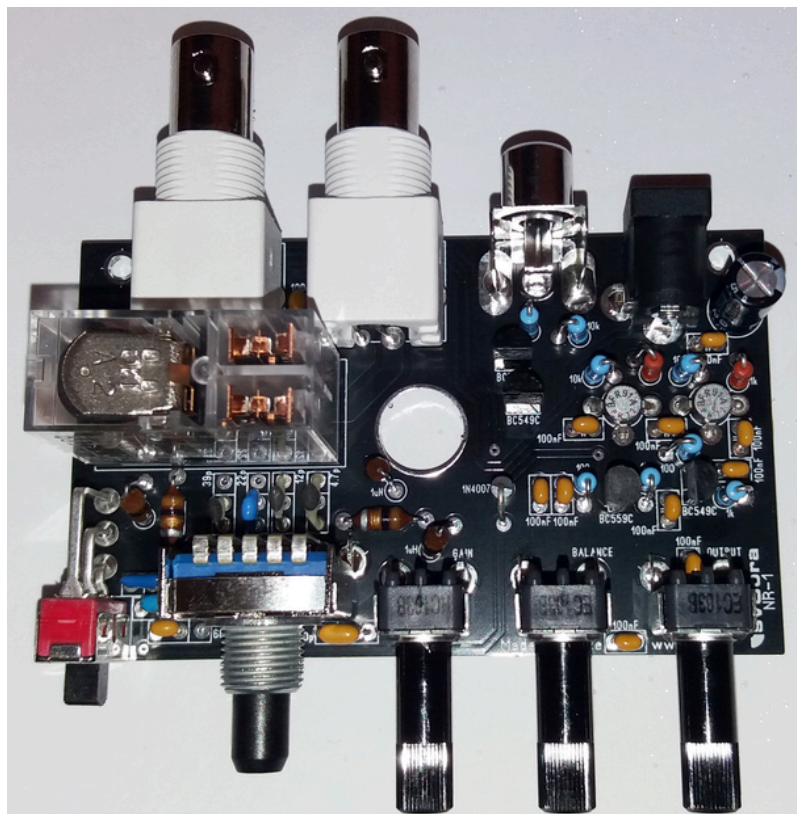
Philips, Murata, Vishay, Kyocera and Nichicon capacitors

TDK (EPCOS) inductors

Aluminum panels (SN:28 and above)

All metal body RF connectors (SN:56 and above, not shown in the picture below)

The NR-1 has been designed to be small and lightweight in order to be easily carried in outdoor radio amateur activities (SOTA, POTA, IOTA, JOTA etc.). Thus, the RF connectors are BNC, the knobs on the front panel are slightly crimped and the box is small, light and ABS.



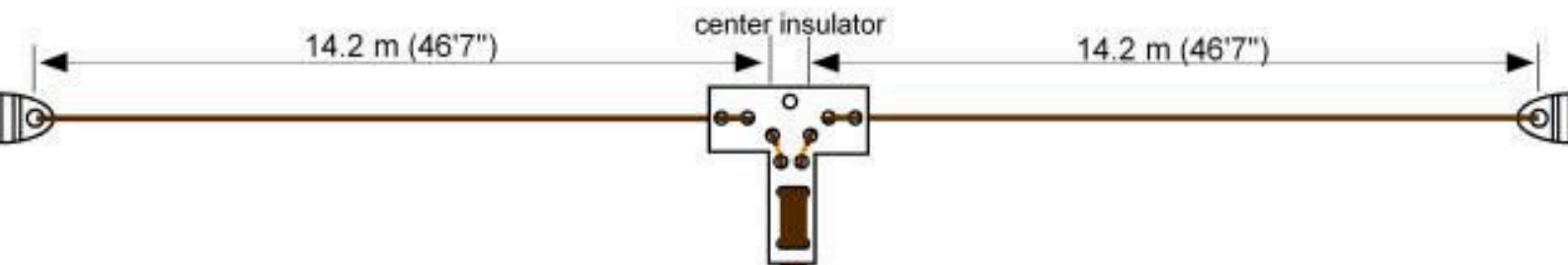
The PCB is factory-etched and designed to RF specifications. Because the circuit is turned off during transmission, it is not greatly affected by the lack of shielding from the ABS enclosure (but make absolutely sure there is no RF present in the PTT line though, and follow closely the PTT connection steps in the paragraphs above). The aluminum face plates (SN: 28 and above) are coated with silkscreen paint and the whole structure is held tightly and correctly aligned with a single screw. For this reason, it is recommended not to open the NR-1. Here is a photo to show what is inside it and how the NR-1 is internally assembled. In this photo, the plastic RF connectors version is shown (SN:56 and below).

The NR-1 is entirely an idea and implementation of Kostas sv3ora. It is "Hand-Made in Greece". It was an effort that started in 2020 in order to deal with the high noise levels in short waves. The antenna was located very close to mains voltage transmission lines and as a result the interference traveled through these lines, ending up in the receiver from many directions. Every now and then, the mains power company (which thankfully responded in time) was employed to repair the problems at their transformer stations. Problems that, due to their nature, had to be identified after lots of effort and time. I decided to do something about it and not having to go through this process every now and then.

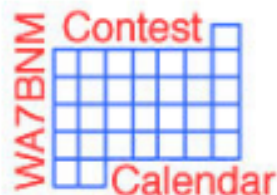
The effort and the endless time of experimentation and testing, finally paid off. Since then, the NR-1 has been used regularly in the shack whenever this noise appears and I no longer have to go through the above procedure. It has served me well and reliably over the years. It is still under development and improvements will be gradually made upon the requests of HAMs.

Eventually, I also started a [YouTube channel](#), in order to show the effectiveness and the operation of the NR-1.

sv3ora



COMPETITION CALENDAR



Powered by ICOM

Follow @wa7bnmcalendar



September 20 - 27, 2026

September 28 - October 5, 2026

October 6 - 13, 2026



	Sep 28 Monday	Sep 29 Tuesday	Sep 30 Wednesday	Oct 1 Thursday	Oct 2 Friday	Oct 3 Saturday	Oct 4 Sunday	Oct 5 Monday
K1USN Slow Speed Test								
QCX Challenge								
ICWC Medium Speed Test								
OK1WC Memorial (MWC)								
QCX Challenge								
RSGB FT4 Contest								
ICWC Medium Speed Test								
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest								
QCX Challenge								
ICWC Medium Speed Test								
Tuesday's Telegraphy Contest								
222 MHz Fall Sprint								
Phone Weekly Test								
A1Club AWT								
CWops Test (CWT)								
Mini-Test 40								
Mini-Test 80								
CWops Test (CWT)								
UKEICC 80m Contest								
VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest-NA								
Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest								
CWops Test (CWT)								
CWops Test (CWT)								
SARL 80m QSO Party								
NRAU 10m Activity Contest								
SKCC Sprint Europe								
URC DX RTTY Contest								
NCCC FT4 Sprint								
Weekly RTTY Test								
NCCC Sprint								
K1USN Slow Speed Test								
George Batterson 1936 QSO Party								
Collegiate QSO Party								
TRC DX Contest								
Oceania DX Contest, Phone								
German Telegraphy Contest								
Russian WW Digital Contest								
IARU Region 1 UHF/Microwaves Contest								
California QSO Party								
International HELL-Contest								
50 MHz Fall Sprint								
IARU Region 2 Area G HF SSB Contest								
UBA ON Contest, SSB								
Peanut Power QRP Sprint								
K1USN Slow Speed Test								
ICWC Medium Speed Test								
OK1WC Memorial (MWC)								
RSGB 80m Autumn Series, CW								
ICWC Medium Speed Test								

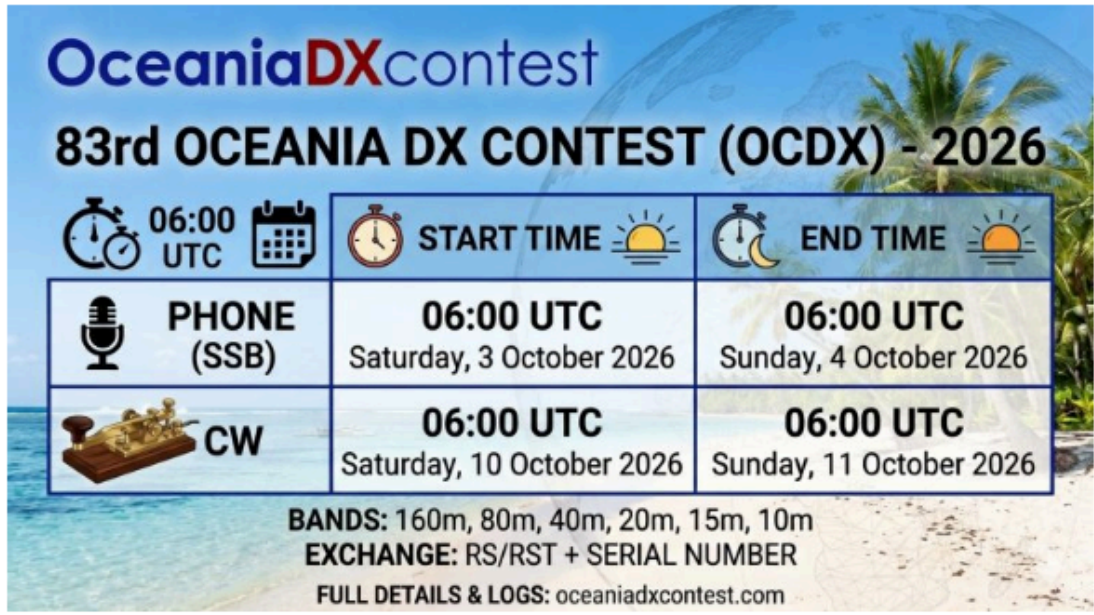
OceaniaDXcontest

OceaniaDXcontest

83rd OCEANIA DX CONTEST (OCDX) - 2026

 06:00 UTC 	 START TIME 	 END TIME 
 PHONE (SSB)	06:00 UTC Saturday, 3 October 2026	06:00 UTC Sunday, 4 October 2026
 CW	06:00 UTC Saturday, 10 October 2026	06:00 UTC Sunday, 11 October 2026

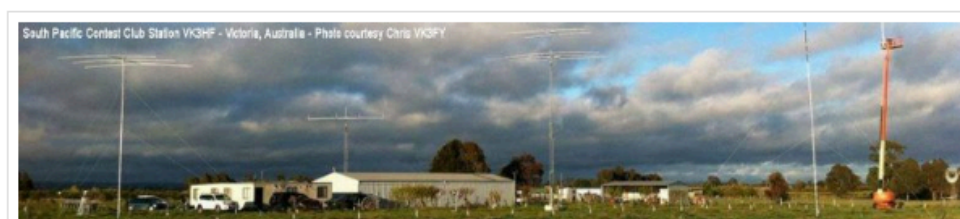
BANDS: 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, 10m
EXCHANGE: RS/RST + SERIAL NUMBER
FULL DETAILS & LOGS: oceaniadxcontest.com



Announcing the 83rd Oceania DX Contest – 2026

The Oceania DX Contest returns this October for its **83rd running**, continuing one of amateur radio's longest-established international HF contests. Once again, stations throughout Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, and the Pacific will become the sought-after DX as thousands of operators around the world turn their antennas towards Oceania.

The **SSB Contest** will be held on **3–4 October 2026**, followed by the **CW Contest** on **10–11 October 2026**. Each contest begins at **0600 UTC on Saturday** and continues for **24 hours**, concluding at **0600 UTC on Sunday**.



Scoring is based on QSO points multiplied by the number of different amateur radio prefixes worked on each band from **160 to 10 metres** (excluding the WARC bands). The exchange is signal report plus sequential serial number. Computer logging is recommended, with popular contest logging programs such as **WriteLog**, **N1MM Logger+** and others providing full support for the Oceania DX Contest. Electronic log submission is required, and operators using paper logs can easily enter their contacts using the online log entry facility.

Full contest rules, online log submission, previous results, records and other contest information are available at oceaniadxcontest.com. Whether you are an experienced contester or trying the event for the first time, there is a category to suit every station including high power, low power, QRP, multi-band, single band, multi-op, single-op and SWL. Why not see if you can establish a new record in your preferred category?

AN OFF THE CUFF ANTENNA (40m)

For those meeting attendees who remember (and who can forget) my portable four-legged mast and antenna setup for use on Friday Park Portable operations.



In this version of the Antenna/Balan combination, each leg of the dipole was permanently attached to the balan, while the antenna worked well in the sky some difficulties were encountered during the antenna deployments. This being that laying the first side of the dipole presented no problem just unwind the element in one length, in one straight line and in position. The second leg though had to unspooled on to ground in a heap of wire and in a hope that when the yellow cord was pulled away into position, it would not tangle.

Time For Something Better

After searching most electronic catalogues for a bayonet style connector, in a suitable size and the durability needed for infield use, resulted in most being found unsatisfactory in either being too large or having multiple pins. Ok, let's try elsewhere, maybe one of those crazy Chinse web sites.

Version 2

Success (I hope) AliExpress had these Blood Pressure Cuff connectors

Four, for 18 dollars, not a big risk and I am sure I can find a use for them if they are found not to be electrically conductive (Yes, they Are!).

Fire Up the Brain Cells and the 3D Printer

First let's not reinvent the wheel, a quick search of Thingiverse gave numerous results for portable antenna winders, some being mor suitable than others, the one that looked about the right shape and size was chosen and downloaded.

(<https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:5440023>)

Once this air connectors arrived, tested and physically measured, The CAD programme was opened. With a few redesigns and one or two failed prints, I was finally satisfied with my Balan/Centre 3D print. Next make connector electrically suitable, a small hole (1.5mm) was drilled in each barb of the connector and the nickel plating filed away to allow soldering to brass.



With a bit of fiddling, the wires for the Balun and the antenna leads were threaded through the centre of each barb and poked through the new hole and soldered.

The now repurposed connectors are now been fixed in place with grub screws (4) and the ferrite core in place and soldered.

With the addition of some heat shrink on each leg of the dipole to give some strain relief to wires, completed the project.

The top photo shows my original antenna; the next three photos show the new version.

The new setup has been used in the field, and the speed in both the deployment and packing away have been improved by at least a factor of two.

The last photos shows the antenna stowed in a bra washing bag.



Cheers

Chris VK2YMW

PS

I have also used another bra washing bag to store the RG174 coax, just pushing the coax few cm at a time into the bag uncoiled and lose, this allows the coax to be pulled out quickly in one straight length with no loops or nots.





"Article by Caryl Simpson and reprinted with permission from the Marlborough Amateur Radio Club monthly newsletter: "Interface".

From all the positive comments I heard from various attendees, the weekend went very well. This was due to all the hard work put in by the organisers Nick ZL2NEB and Stuart ZL2TW, with help from Greg ZL2GBX, informative presentations on a variety of subjects by the guest speakers, and particularly delicious morning and afternoon teas provided by Topsy ZL2LS. The venue, thanks to Don ZL3DN, was just the right size and the vintage cars in the museum provided a lovely backdrop to the sales tables set up by Techoman Craig ZL3TECH and The Ham Shack's Greg ZL1GUD. From the number of people leaving the museum with something in their hands and a smile on their face, I gather both business's did good trade.

There were 56 registered, although we had a couple of no-shows. The prize for the one who travelled from furthest away went to the man who came over from the Chatham Islands. Over 30 attended the evening meal at Speights on Saturday night. When asked if it was back to Murchison for Westfest next time, a number suggested Blenheim host it again! The comment was made that we would certainly not meet in Dunedin as that would be called Bottomfest, which didn't have the right ring (no pun intended) to it!

The weekend began on Saturday with a welcome and introduction from Stuart then straight into the first presentation from Warren Judkins ZL3TQR on Amateur Broadcast Radio. He was a teacher at a special character school in Christchurch and talked about setting up The Fridge radio on 88.3FM, broadcasting initially from the school then branching out across other locations. He noted quite a few students who got involved went on to careers in radio.

Warren was followed by Jay Haines ZL4JAY, who spoke about Tailscale, which gives private and secure connections, with remote access, to your devices.

We then took a break for morning tea, which consisted of scones, whipped cream and jam to go with cups of tea or coffee. People took the opportunity to stretch their legs and check out the sales tables.

The next speaker was Nick Batt ZL2NEB, talking about Remote Station Control - a guide for people who have absolutely no idea.

Next up was John Errington ZL3TIL, to explain about the ZL2KS infrastructure, SDR/RBN and Winlink, then we broke for lunch.

After lunch they held the Antenna Racing World Champs up on the grass area behind the venue. Although sunny, there was a very cold wind but this didn't stop the competitors doing their best. The winner was Chris Scott ZL2CS followed by runner-up Grant Gilbert ZL1GGL (love his callsign!)

Once everyone was back inside warming up, John Yaldwyn ZL4JY, started the afternoon sessions talking about the AREC FM LPFM network in Wellington, why it broadcasts the BBC World Service, and how this came about.

Rick Jackson ZL3RIK, then had everyone laughing as he talked about the lighter side of 'OTA and the problems that can arise which will either make you laugh, or cry, depending on your outlook on life. It turns out he is terrified of cows and many sites seem to be guarded by them. Some people have had interesting reactions to finding him setting up for an activation. One time he said he could hear a weird wailing noise up ahead, way out in the middle of nowhere and finally found the source - a lad practising on his saxophone!

The last speaker for the day was Roger Corbett ZL3RC who had two sessions split by the presentation of the Antenna Races awards. His first session was entitled 'Things Never Change, Or Do They?' followed by him demonstrating a programme that makes the Jock White Field Day log processing quicker and easier than writing it all out by hand. This generated a lot of questions so I think there are a lot of keen operators looking for an easier way to fill out the required forms! Somewhere between the speakers mentioned above, we stopped for afternoon tea, again provided by Topsy ZL2LS and this time consisting of loaf slices and biscuits. These breaks provided time to stretch, visit the facilities, buy more stuff from the sales tables, or catch up with fellow Hams.

The day ended with everyone heading home, or back to their accommodation. Some met for dinner at Speights Alehouse. Sunday started off with Neville Marr ZL2BNE, giving a talk on the WSPRnator He was another presenter who showed how useful AI can be for the amateur radio enthusiast and how quickly and easily it could produce things like circuit boards. We stopped for morning tea (this time muffins and biscuits), a stretch and a natter before settling back down again to hear Nick Batt ZL2NEB, talking about his life as a Radio Activist and his enthusiasm for activations. He explained it was a great excuse to travel and a good way to see the country, visiting places you may never want to see again! He considers activations to be a great learning opportunity and a fun way to teach technique and procedure to newbies. Nick also warned you would spend a lot of time online looking at maps, normalising travelling 100km for a 30-minute activation, becoming fixated with portable equipment and its weight, while memorising the first names of more radio operators than you ever expected was possible. He also warned it was addictive!

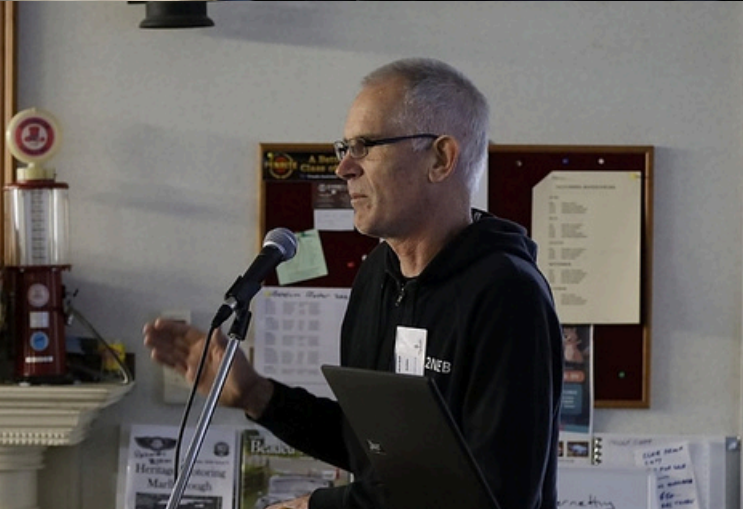
Our penultimate speaker was George Timmermans ZL2GTI, who spoke about Rapid Prototyping. This involved explanations about the different types of 3D printers and cutters available along with a few safety warnings.

To finish off the event sessions, Stuart Watchman ZL2TW, explained the history of the club's remote HF station, explaining a lot of the equipment used had fallen off the back of various trucks, plus we had some generous donations of equipment from members. Attendees were invited to go and have a look at the tower since it wasn't far away from their location. Stewart Robinson ZL2STR, was then invited to say a few words about next year's NZART Conference which will be a combined effort between Nelson and Marlborough and held in Nelson. He encouraged all to attend and said they were looking for guest speakers, especially of the calibre heard this weekend, if anyone wanted to volunteer.

Stuart ZL2TW, finished by thanking everyone for their attendance and those who helped to make it such a successful weekend. Extra thanks also to the Branch 22 members who helped with setting up and/or the tidying and vacuuming afterwards.

I hope I got names, call signs and information correct throughout this article and my apologies for any errors but, considering I am not a Ham, I felt proud just not to have fallen asleep during any of the talks (although I was close early afternoon when the room warmed up a bit much).







Dinner pics by Herrie ZL2 HDO



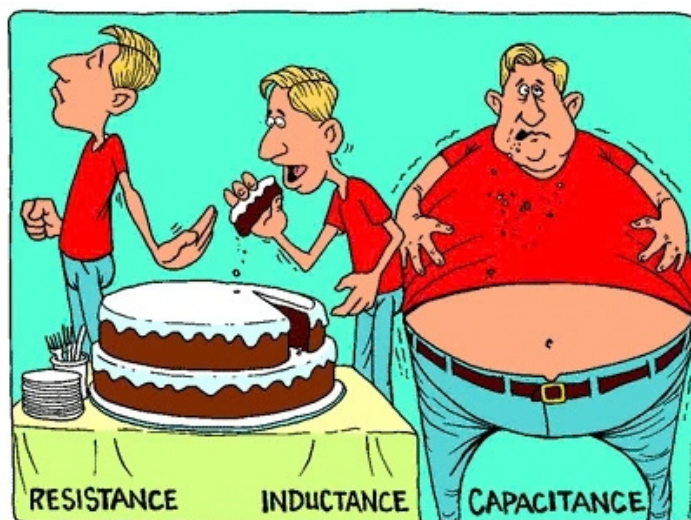
This was the best organised conference with the most interesting topics that I have attended in New Zealand.

Thanks to the organisers.

Greg Editor



Giveaway Winners





SGARS Active in Contesting and JOTA

Members of the St George Amateur Radio Society (SGARS) recently enjoyed an afternoon operating the club station VK2LE during the Remembrance Day Contest.

The annual contest commemorates Australian and New Zealand radio amateurs who lost their lives during World War II. It is held on the weekend closest to 15 August, the date on which hostilities ceased in the South-West Pacific Area. Congratulations to all the SGARS members who took part.

SGARS will once again be operating VK2LE at the Endeavour Boree Regatta at Kurnell, Sydney, during Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), where more than 500 Scouts and Guides are expected to participate.

The SGARS JOTA team would particularly like to arrange contacts with other JOTA stations, including stations across the Tasman in New Zealand. Saturday and Sunday mornings would be especially welcome opportunities for contacts between Australian and New Zealand Scouts and Guides.

Further information about the SGARS JOTA station, including contact details for arranging contacts, is available at www.sgars.org

Paul VK2GX



Custom LED "ON AIR" Light Box – Personalised Amateur Radio Shack Display

Level up your radio shack, desk setup, or operating position with a custom LED ON AIR light box!

Whether you want a classic ON AIR indicator or a fully personalised callsign sign (e.g., POTAHOLIC ON AIR ZL1POTA / ZL2BB), these bright, eye-catching light boxes make the ultimate addition to your station.

Key Features:

- Custom Call Sign & Text: Personalise with your callsign, name, or custom header text.
- Vibrant LED Backlighting: High-efficiency, bright illumination with clean edge-to-edge diffusion.
- Direct Wall-Mounting: Clean, low-profile design mounts directly flush against the wall from the back—no bulky brackets required.
- Durable Construction: Lightweight, sturdy housing engineered specifically for long-lasting shack displays.

Contact

rob@kiwiasylum.com

also ask about the winders and POTA lightweight antennas - Editor



R1BIG

OH7BG

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**YL Raissa**

25K followers • 45 following

Your No-AI Zone: Real Radio, Real Raissa

Sports & recreation

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I guess anyone that is active on the bands or on Ham Facebook sites would have heard of Raissa, who in my opinion has done a huge amount to promote amateur radio and especially amateur radio amongst YL's.

Here is her story .. Greg ZL1GUD

Dear subscribers! I've been with you for more than a year, but you only know the current YL RAISA. Therefore, I want to talk a little about myself in the past, even before the start of the Radio in my life.

I was born in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. But then it was still a republic within the USSR.

My grandparents moved to Uzbekistan at different times from Russia and Ukraine.

In Tashkent, I graduated from school and university, but when I was 22 years old, like many other Russians, I decided to move to Russia.

My choice fell on St. Petersburg, this is the city that I have long dreamed of. I decided to take this important step, left Uzbekistan and moved to Russia alone for a new life.

At first it was very difficult. Together with a girlfriend, we rented a small room in a large apartment for several years. Such apartments in St. Petersburg are called "communal flats" and most often they are former large apartments from the tsarist times (and houses were built before the 1917 revolution).

It was very difficult for Russians who came from the former Soviet republics to obtain Russian citizenship. However, after a few years I managed this and was able to start living and working normally.

Only now I found out that a very interesting Radio Amateur has lived and still lives next to my former flat in Tashkent: Fedor UK9AA. He has huge homemade antennas. For 25 years he has been working stationary 8 band quad 2-40m; 3-30m; 4-20m; 3-17m; 4-15m; 3-12m; 6-10m; 4-6m. And for the Contest CQWW-2019, he recently built a temporary antenna 7 el Yagi on 160m !!! And according Raw scores Assisted Low 160 Meters Fedor is Nr.1 in the World with this Ant!

I participated in the construction of a 160-meter dipole at OH73ELK island, so I'm just shocked at what means 7 el antenna for this band!

I hope to visit my hometown someday and try to make a video report about Fedor and his antennas.

btw: for 2020 I have planned a lot of new activities in the radio, let's see what we can implement! Your likes and comments help and inspire me!

22 women from 11 countries came together at station OL88YL in Czechia

Together, we made over 17K QSOs. But more than the numbers, it was about connection — between women who love radio.

... will we ever meet like that again? In these times... I don't know.

Thanks to Studio Ovsík Lubomír for providing the original video footage used to create this video.

<https://www.facebook.com/YLRaisa>



OL88YL

**OL88YL Award
Special YL-event
from 4th to 10th August 2024**

Issued to Amateur Radio Station:

NO: _____ Date: _____

Award Manager: OK2ZA Rudolf Sedlak
Special thanks to our sponsors:
IARU R1, USKA, YASME Foundation,
RL Radioamateurs du Luxembourg,
OK5Z, OK2ZA, OK2ZI and family Thiemann



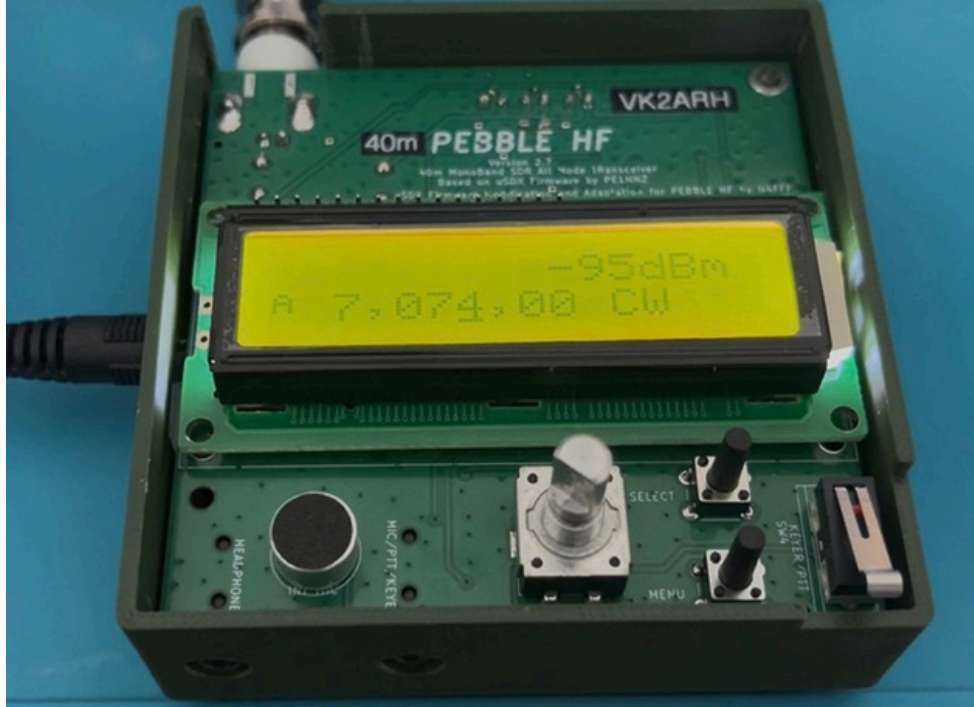
 HB9FPM Eva	 OK1GB Renata	 DJ5YL Johanna	 JP3AYO Mayumi
 OK1ARI Arianna	 J13JRE Matsumi	 OK1LJ Janin	 TA7EY Merzuke
 K2XYL Margreet	 OK2YL Sigi	 OK2OL Karin	 OK1MAR Martina
 LX2DU Jene	 GB4JJ Linda	 HB9HVM Veronika	 S06PEH Halina
 OM1OW Nora	 OK1LYL Liba	 HB9FBC Chantal	 R1B1G Raissa
	 DL1TM Michaela		



22 young ladies from 11 Countries
and 3 Continents logged total
of 17882 QSOs from 149 different Countries.

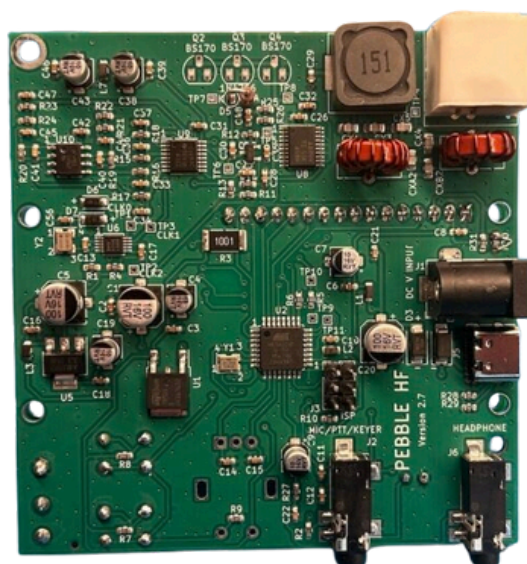
Special thanks to our Sponsors:

IARU R1,
USKA,
Yasme Foundation,
RL Radio amateurs du Luxembourg,
OK5Z team, OK2ZA Rudolf, OK2ZI Karel,
HB9FPM Eva and HB9JOE Andreas.



The Pebble HF radio sends ripples across the air waves

Carmel VK2NO / Richard VK2ARH



Barb, WN2CBA, who has designed many fun radio kits has just released a compact, lightweight 20 meter QRP transceiver kit in collaboration with Mike N4FFF and Becky N4BKY, with a 40m radio to be released soon.

Richard, VK2ARH of Manly Warringah Radio Society, has organised a club purchase of the pre-release 40 meter variety, and actually received some pre-release versions to be tested out by club members.

The kit has most components already mounted including an SI5351 VFO on-board chip. Only a few through-hole components are to be soldered, as well as a couple of toroids to wind, and programming the VFO via an Arduino. The PA is E-class and consists of 3 x BS170s which under carrier tests barely generated any heat at all.

Richard VK2ARH tested the unit last week at a local park. His observations are below, and also noted online at, The 40m Pebble performed admirably and a tribute to the designer Barb WB2CBA. 5/9 Signal reports were also received from Adelaide via a short wave listener. The experience confirmed the decision to use the Radio as the basis for our 'Lunch Box' equipment challenge' being developed by the MWRS Portable Special Interest Group, supported by the Builders and 3D printing groups within the Club. The idea being to make a recommendation and design a low-cost equipment setup that can fit into a 'lunch box', and enable anyone to easily join our regular portable activities.

"The 40m 'Pebble' is being built by several club members, as an opensource project and a variant of the original 20m kit. The 'Pebble' project is the brainchild of Mike N4FFF and Becky N4BKY the HamRadioDuo on YouTube, in collaboration with Barb WB2CBA as a way to give back to the Amateur Radio Community. Barb designed the hardware leveraging from his earlier projects and an existing firmware design by Guido PE1NNZ.

The Pebble takes about one hour to assemble and requires a small number of THD components to be soldered to the preassembled main board populated by SMD components. A solid 5w out with 12.8v DC input, harmonic suppression >46dB, and with a crystal stabilized Si5351 on board there was no need for any frequency calibration. The radio can operate on USB/LSB, and CW using the built in CW key or plugging in a straight key or iambic paddle. The radio has a digital display, built in CW decoder and CW practice mode, twin VFO's, RIT, NR, ATT. Although you can connect an external microphone, the built in Microphone produces good quality audio.

This little Pebble made a big splash on its first field activation and generated a lot of interest.

The full open-source project can be found at Barb's GitHub Site : <https://github.com/WB2CBA/PEBBLEHF-MONOBAND-SDR-HF-TRANSCEIVER>

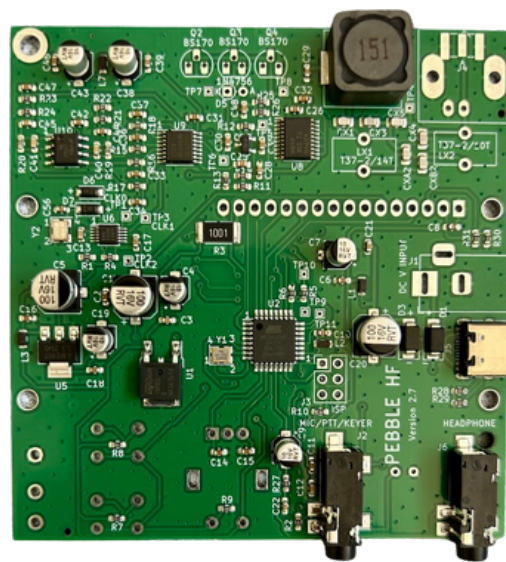
Pictures shown above is, of the setup used by Richard, The speaker mic is only being used for its amplified speaker and power was supplied by a 3 x 18650 (nominally 12v) battery pack."

As for the Pebble naming, this from Barb, WN2CBA:

"'PebbleHF' was christened by Mike N4FFF's wife Becky N4BKY as Pebble. She said that the radio is so small but has so many functions and is so cheap and simple -like a pebble thrown in a pond which makes many waves across the pond." -in this case radio waves! So skim your pebble across the lake of the world for big ripples from such a tiny radio.

Pebble 20 meter radio:

<https://www.mwrs.org.au/2026/09/29/40m-pebble-qrp-transceiver-makes-a-big-splash/>





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

Unit: mm

YOUR POTA SOLUTION FOR HF OR VHF SSB

INCLUDES CLIP ON BATTERY



I have just taken my PMR171 on a trip to Australia (NSW & 5 days in the Outback), the radio worked perfectly and using 20 watts I had a lot of QSO's back to NZ and of course a lot of local contacts. I have a few HF radios and this was the first time I did not take a 100 watt radio. I was a bit concerned but the 20 watts was perfect.

I used the Spiderbeam 404 antenna on a 6m SOTABEAMS Tactical mast, a great combination.

Also, the battery back falls within the Air NZ & Qantas battery allowances so no issues flying with it.

Greg ZL1GUD

WWW.THEHAMSHACK.CO.NZ



The Malahit LITEMALADSP MLite-880 receiver

Andrew Barron ZL3DW

The Malahit LITEMALADSP MLite-880 receiver is a neat little portable radio, ideal for taking on holiday, or to the beach. It is an SDR receiver aimed at amateur radio, shortwave listening, and other enthusiasts such as airplane or marine traffic spotters. The MLite-880 was designed by Georgy Yatsuk RX9CIM and Vadim Burlakov R6DCY. It is manufactured in China by Elecevolve <https://www.elecevolve.com/>. This is the same team that designed and produced the popular Malhit DSP2 receiver and is soon to release the Malahit DSP4 receiver.

The receiver has many features that make it ideal for portable use. It can also be used on the bench of your ham shack or around the house. It is a multimode SDR receiver with automatic or manual, mode selection appropriate to the selected band. For example, selecting a selecting a frequency on 80m sets LSB, and selecting an Airband channel sets the AM mode. Choosing a channel on the FM broadcast band sets Wideband stereo FM, however the radio only has a single speaker so stereo audio is only available using headphones. The WFM mode can display the RDS (radio data signal) which usually shows the name of the FM station and often the track and artist being played. Some stations also broadcast a four-character PI (programme identification) code.

The radio has features which make it much more than “your dad’s old transistor radio.” I like the fold out panel on the back that lets the radio sit at a nice angle. There is the usual stereo headphone jack, or you can pair Bluetooth ear pods or headphones. It was easy to pair my Apple air pods with the radio, and the stereo audio was better quality than the small internal speaker. There is a micro-SD card slot. An SD card is used to hold recordings of received signals. Files are saved with the frequency, mode, file size, and date. To supplement the telescoping whip antenna, a small SMA to mini phono adapter is supplied so that you can connect an external antenna. This is rather fragile, but I can understand why the designer did not want to have an SMA or BNC connector sticking out of the radio. It would be likely to catch on things, and most users will not use an external antenna anyway.



The battery is a 3.7 volt 5000 mAh rechargeable unit that is supplied with the radio. The radio can be charged from a user supplied USB-C power supply or a Type A USB port on your computer. It does not support fast charging. A USB-A to USB-C cable is supplied. The receiver draws around 490mA when receiving an FM broadcast station at a low volume and 650 mA when not squelched on 2m FM. The current dropped to around 580 mA when squelched with the display dimmed or turned off. I would expect around 7.5 hours of battery life in continuous use, and a bit longer if you are listening to a ham band repeater with the squelch on. Turning the display off makes a slight difference but not as much as I expected. The radio includes DSP (digital signal processing) noise reduction and a noise blanker on CW, AM, SSB and NFM. A Bias-T can be enabled to provide volts on the external antenna connector to power a masthead amplifier or active antenna. You can adjust many features including the display brightness and dim time, spectrum averaging and fill, AGC, a front-end attenuator for the shortwave (HF) bands, external antenna impedance, and WFM bandwidth and deemphasis. The 70 x 28 mm (2.7 x 1.1 inch) display takes up about half the width of the top panel. It shows a spectrum display and the receiver bandwidth, plus the battery level, mode, time, squelch, band, and a few other indicators. It is a grey scale LCD display, and it is not a touchscreen. The display dims after a short time and can be turned off by pressing the 9 key. The radio is supplied with a small but well-prepared English language manual which covers the menu settings.

Firmware updates are performed by connecting the radio to your PC using the supplied USB cable and using the 'one-click' firmware download on the company website. The radio had the latest firmware, but for the sake of the review, I installed an update anyway. The download threw some anti-virus warnings, but after that the update went smoothly. It took several minutes to complete. The current hardware and firmware version is displayed on page three of the radio settings menu. Sadly, there is no USB audio output to a computer which would be good for connecting digital mode software. You can use the audio output from the headphone jack, but a USB connection is standard for most software. This emphasises that the MLite-880 is designed as a portable radio for casual listening and not a serious communications receiver. You can change the bandwidth of the receiver, which will be reflected in bandwidth mask that is displayed on the spectrum scope. A bandscope is unusual on a small portable radio. It is great for finding stations on the band, and it can show you stations that pop up while you are listening to a different frequency. The bandscope has a reasonable resolution and a 40 kHz bandwidth. It is more useful on the HF amateur bands where narrow band signals are operating close to each other. You can turn on a dBm signal strength meter and change the scope gain, averaging, and fill. The receiver frequency calibration can be adjusted in 0.1 ppm steps if you have a suitable frequency reference. My radio was very close to perfect calibration, so I have not adjusted it.

Tuning is continuous across three ranges, 130 kHz to 30 MHz, 65 MHz to 108 MHz, and 118 MHz to 165 MHz. There is a band selection page for the 12 amateur radio bands from 1800m to 10m, the 4m 70 MHz to 70.5 MHz band, and the 2m band. The 6m amateur band is missed out, and coverage does not reach the 70cm band. There are 16 bands for selecting the international longwave, medium wave, and shortwave bands.

The 'VHF and FM broadcast' selection includes the OIRT band, which is used for FM broadcast stations in Russia, the standard 88 – 108 MHz FM broadcast band, Airband, and NOAA satellite frequencies between 162.4 and 162.55 MHz. The radio also covers the VHF marine band, but there is no band selection option for it. There is another band select page for 1620-1800 kHz, 3000 to 3200 kHz, and 10400 to 10500 kHz. These are the so called 'pirate' or 'free band' frequencies used by unlicensed 'pirate' radio stations, 'Echo Charlie' operators, and fishing boats respectively.

The receiver has ten banks of 50 memory slots, so you can allocate a different page for stations within a particular band or interest. The radio tunes to each channel as you scroll through the list. You can name the channels with a five-character alphanumeric tag. You can select AM, DSB, SAM, SAML, SAMU, CW, USB, LSB, NFM, or WFM modes. Tuning into, or selecting, a different band automatically selects the most appropriate mode. The only knob on the radio doubles as the VFO tuning knob and the volume control. It is also used to navigate lists on the menu pages. Pressing Enter selects the highlighted line, pressing a number key changes the value. The A and B keys tab through menu or memory pages. All the buttons have a secondary function. A is used to toggle the audio output device, B toggles the squelch, C switches on the NR (noise reduction filter), and D exits the current menu layer. The # key is used to Enter a value.

There is no conventional VFO or memory channel scanning mode. However, you can step through saved memory channels with the tuning knob when you have selected 8 (CH MEMO). That lets you hear activity on each saved channel as you step through them. There is also a “scanning” mode for AM and WFM. If you turn this mode on and turn the tuning knob slightly, the radio will scan up or down to the next AM or FM broadcast station and stop. Turn the knob a little again, and the radio will move up or down to the next station. I found it great for the FM broadcast band as you can quickly jump from station to station. The same would be true for AM shortwave broadcast stations. While I don’t believe a VFO scan mode is necessary, it would be nice to be able to scan the saved channels in a selected memory page. For example, the six Airband channels I have saved on memory page 3, or the 2m repeaters on page 2.

There is an extensive menu with 15 radio settings, 7 display settings, and 13 audio settings. Far more than most portable radios of this type, which often have no user settings at all. I was sometimes confused about how to adjust some of the menu settings, particularly saving memory channels, but everything is explained clearly in the manual. The radio is 155mm (6.1”) wide including the knob. It is 110 mm (4.3”) high and 30mm (1.2”) deep.

You can purchase the MLite-880 directly from Elecevolve. <https://www.elecevolve.com/products/mlite-880>. Local sales tax, (GST in the case of New Zealand), is included in the displayed price, and the shipping cost is displayed on the sales webpage and the checkout. The radio is available from online shopping sites including AliExpress, Amazon, and Banggood. Thanks to Elecevolve for supplying the radio for this review. Please note that this is not a paid endorsement.

Andrew Barron ZL3DW (September 2026)



Made with AI

**Bendigo Amateur Radio & Electronics Club
(BAREC)**

RADIOFEST

Sunday October 11th 2026

East Bendigo Public Hall
35 Lansell St, Bendigo, Vic

BAREC VK3CMZ

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10:00 AM START

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After so many years of friendship, I finally had the chance to visit Taka-san, JA8COE, in Hokkaido Japan
What an incredible experience — wonderful hospitality, great friendship, and the privilege of operating his amazing station. Even with the challenging conditions we still managed to make some great contacts!

It was truly special to finally meet Taka-san in person. I'm already looking forward to my next visit to Hokkaido — and hopefully welcoming Taka-san to Israel very soon!

An unforgettable experience. Thank you, Taka-san!

73 Shalom
Amir 4X6TT

The best hobby in the world!
Greg ZL1GUDEditor



4X6TT	Amir (アミール)
XYL	Dayana (ダヤナ)
JG8LOL	Niwa
JA8COE	Taka

How to be rude when sending an electronic QSL card

By Daniel Romila, VE7LCG

Because from time to time I have radio contacts at very big distances, I created some QSL cards that I can immediately send to my correspondent as a proof. I get his/her email address from the website qrz.com, where the most of us are logging the radio contacts, and send an email from my personal email address directly to his/her personal email address. All my QSL cards are made in Microsoft Word, in several minutes, and custom completed and saved in several seconds. How to make such QSL cards is not the subject of this article, but I do have two in detail articles in past editions of SARC The Communicator magazine, a freely available online magazine, from Canada. A simple Internet search will get you there, because this magazine has a searchable index by author's name, subject, title and so on.



Let's start first with

1. How to be polite when sending a QSL card

There are two options.

One I almost described it above: you made yourself a QSL card, you can complete it with the radio contact details, and send it from your email address to the correspondent's email address, as attachment (pdf, jpg, and so on). Because there is your originating email address information, the correspondent can just hit the "reply" button, attach his/her QSL card, and the confirmation is done.

Second one involves you making the card with the help of a dedicated website. Nothing wrong with that. Maybe you do not have the skills, inspiration and/or time to make the card completely on your own, on your own computer and software. Or simply you do not feel like doing it on your computer. Again, nothing wrong with that. I do not advertise any website, so I let you search on your own for free QSL card making websites. There are plenty of them. Here is what I received from a radio amateur colleague. Please note he gave me his email address, and his card is immediately downloadable from the email I received from him. That means he made the card with a website, but he himself (not me!) downloaded already completed on his computer, and he himself sent me the final product.

Count.rob@k6irk.com via smtpservice.net
to me ▾

Tue, Jul 7, 3:02 PM (2 days ago) ☆ 😊 ↶ ⋮

Daniel Romila,
Thank you for the QSO. Please find my QSL card attached. I have also uploaded the contact to LOTW, eQSL, QRZ, and Clublog.

73,
Your name
K6IRK

Contact Data

Call: VE7LCG
Date: 2026-07-07 04:05 UTC
Freq: 14.075 MHz
Band: 20m
Mode: FT8
RSTS: -22
RSTR: -19
My Grid: CM98HQ
Your Grid: CN89

QSL by <https://www.n1et.com/products/>

If you prefer not to receive future e-mails confirming uploaded QSO data, please visit <https://www.n1et.com/optout/> and follow the opt-out instructions. If needed, use **NOQSOC** or **NOEQSL** to indicate your preference.

One attachment • Scanned by Gmail ⓘ  Add to Drive



2. How to be rude when sending a QSL card

Let's go further in our subject, on the mean path. You feel like sending a QSL card without sending a QSL card.

Stage one of being rude

You use a website to make your QSL card. After that, you do not download the card on your computer, you do not complete it on your computer. No way! You go on the same website, declare all the data about your radio correspondent, and let the website to communicate with the radio correspondent. It is beneath you to send an email directly to your radio amateur colleague. Maybe he/she is younger. Or older. Healthier. Or very ill. Any reason is good enough. Making the life miserable to somebody else is a common past time.

Here is what I received in my email box, as an exemplification of stage one of being rude:

You have 1 QSL card waiting

Inbox x



DigiQSL <via@digiqsl.co... Sun, Jul 5, 8:14 AM (4 days ago)
to me ▾



QSL cards waiting for you

Hello **VE7LCG**,

You have **1** QSL card waiting for you on DigiQSL.

QSL cards waiting for you (1)

 — 40m / FT8 — 26 Jun 2026

[View QSL card →](#)

I covered his callsign. This guy imagined I will go on whatever website he wants me to go. I will read all the advertising that is on that website, in order to get his precious QSL card. First, I will eventually declare all my personal data, like address, date of birth and callsign. After I denounced everything about myself that can eventually be used for identity theft, I might – or not yet – get the QSL card.

Of course, when I mentioned to the sender all the above, the sender felt offended, wrote me that I have a low technical level and so on. My answer was to make him a QSL card myself. He never said thank you. I never heard back from him.

Stage two of being rude

It's possible your correspondent simply ignores all such emails as described in stage one. Do not loose hope. Once you decided to make miserable the life of somebody, go further. Insist. Maybe the radio amateur correspondent has the same age as you have, and he/she looks half the age. Unbearable. Do not hesitate to make his/her life miserable.

It is not even so difficult, because once you used a website

- Not only for making your QSL card
- But also declared the email address of your radio correspondent

The QSL card website makes the life of your disgusting radio amateur correspondent miserable. Your QSL card is sent to the correspondent again and again. It does not stop after 6 months; it does not stop after one year. It is sent over and over again, forever.

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david@apexradiocoms.co.nz



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MICK VK3CH@WIA.ORG.AU

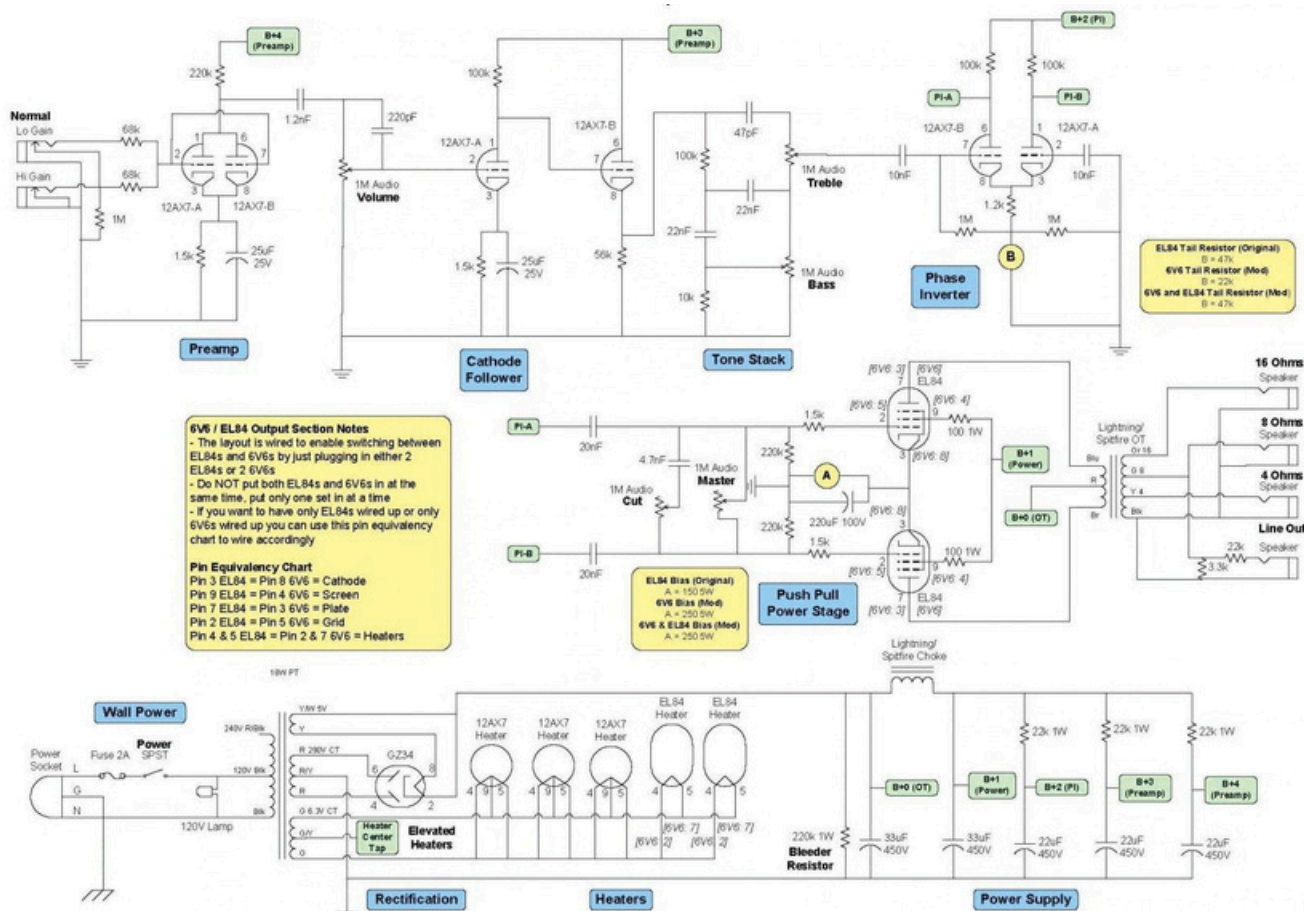
FOR SALE

\$350

6V6GT Valve Audio Amplifier



All new components—original cost \$1,200
Circuit used in design – 6V6GT Push ~ Pull Amplifier



Enquires – more information – to purchase - Mick vk3ch@wia.org.au

FOR SALE \$1,800 including both TX & RX

10 GHz 8 Watt Amateur Television Transmitter Dish & Receive Dish

A complete “turn key” to get onto the 10 GHz band with Analogue Television.

Quality Khune equipment throughout on a one meter dish antenna.

A base band processing unit upsizes the input from a standard video camera, nothing else to add or purchase.

Everything operates on 12 / 13.8 volts DC. Set to 10.41 GHz frequency

Consists of:

TRANSMITTER

All mounted on an RF Ham Design Centre Fed FPD 1M0 D KIT

35.7 dB gain, with a beamwidth of 2.3 degrees

With custom feed made and tested for 10.41 GHz, complete with plotted VSWR charts

Khune Baseband Unit

Khune MKU ATV 10 B Video Transmitter – 10.000~10.500 GHz 200 milliwatt Exciter

Khune MKU PA 102 XL 8 Watt Power Amplifier

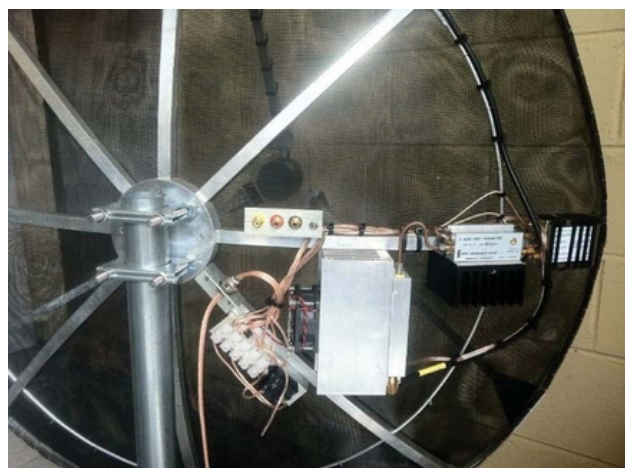
RECEIVER

All mounted on an RF Ham Design Centre Fed FPD 1M0 D KIT

35.7 dB gain, with a beamwidth of 2.3 degrees

With custom feed made and tested for 10.41 GHz, complete with plotted VSWR charts

Khune KU LNC 107A Down Converter – converts to Satellite Band 1400~2100 MHz



Original Costs in 2015 –priceshaveincreasedgreatlysince then

	EURO	AUD
3cm 2 watt PA Khune No Post	479	\$820.00
K band TX		\$1,000.00
2x dish		\$500.00
Base Band	200	\$328.00
Down Converter	200	\$328.00
	879	\$2,976.00

Enquires – more information – to purchase - Mick vk3ch@wia.org.au

FOR SALE \$1,800 for both TX & RX

24 GHz 300 milliwatt

Amateur Television Transmitter Dish & Receive Dish

A complete “turn key” to get onto the 24 GHz band with Analogue Television. Quality Khune equipment throughout on a PROCOM 24 GHz parabolic Antenna 36dBd, diam.= 48cm, F/D=0.4. Accepts input from a standard video camera, nothing else to add or purchase. Everything operates on 12 / 13.8 volts DC.

Consists of:

TRANSMITTER

All mounted on a PROCOM 24 GHz parabolic Antenna 36dBd
With custom feed made and tested for 24 GHz, complete with plotted VSWR charts
Khune MKU ATV 24 -3 300 milliwatt Video Transmitter
Can be adjusted over the entire 24 GHz Amateur Radio Band

RECEIVER

All mounted on a PROCOM 24 GHz parabolic Antenna 36dBd
With custom feed made and tested for 24 GHz, complete with plotted VSWR charts
Khune MKU 24A LNC Downconverter converts to Satellite Band 1000~1250 MHz

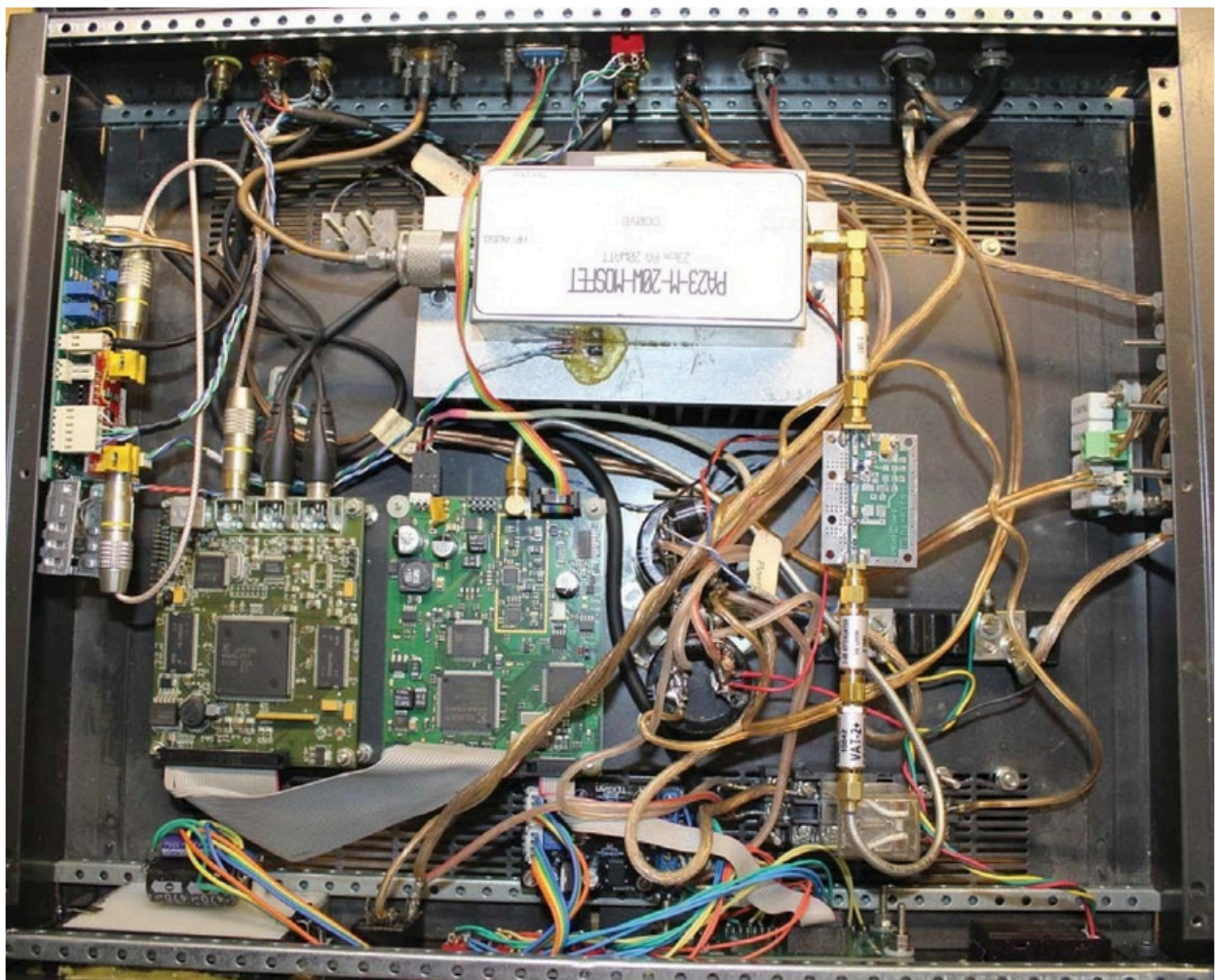


Lettering will peel off easy so you can personalise your dish with ease
Both dishes, with attached equipment stored inside a house, not a spider infested dusty garage
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FOR SALE

\$600

23cm DVB-S SR-Systems Television Transmitter Unit 1 – Transmitter “A”





This transmitter has the DG0VE RA18H1213G 20 watt PA



A ‘turnkey’ system - ready to get onto amateur radio television, either simplex or via VK3RTV. This transmits DVB-S in SD mode.

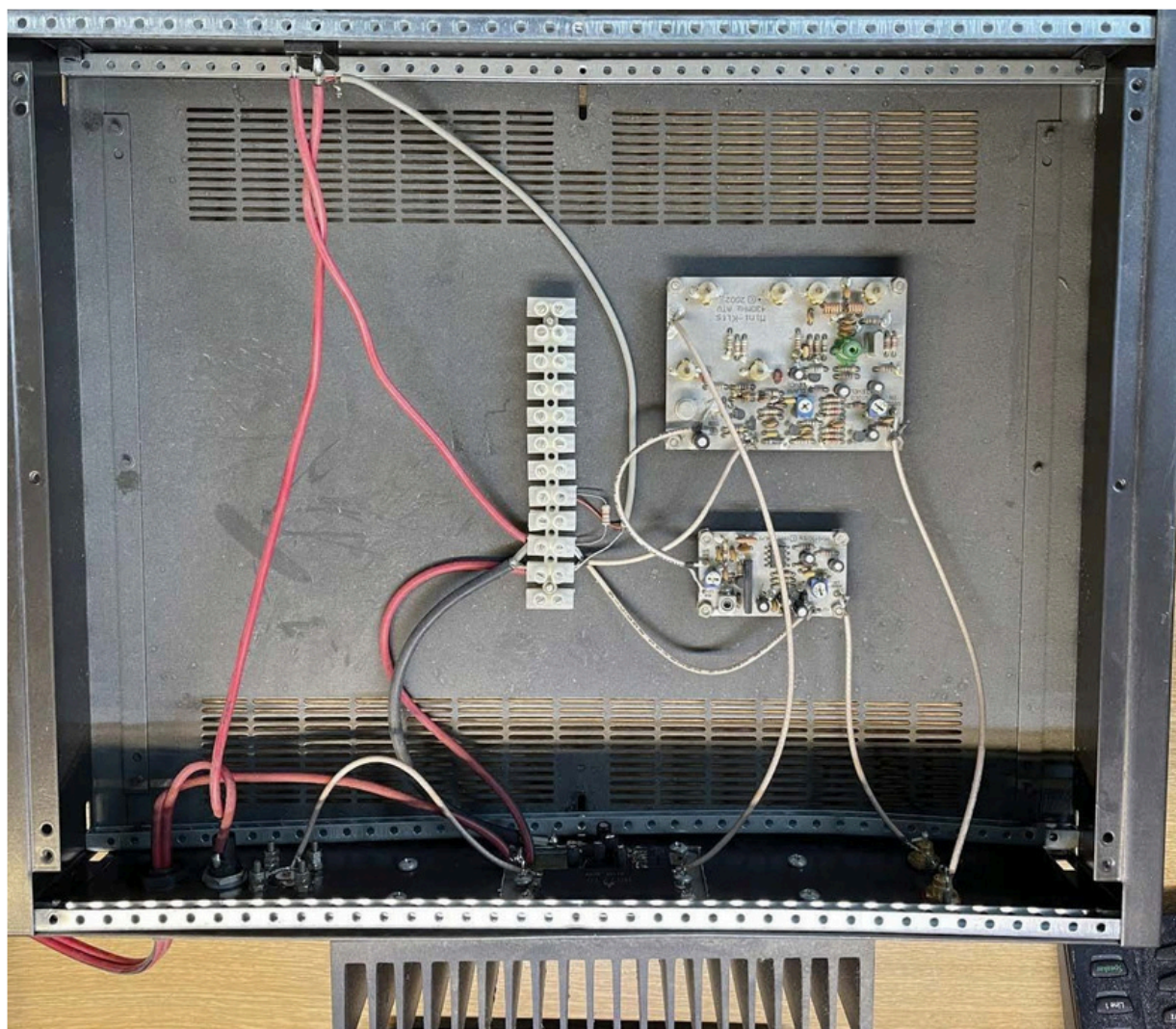
SR-Systems board controlled either by front panel switches or via a serial data port.

Either use the transmitter “as is” or alter or cannibalise it for parts and make your own system.

The high quality DG0VE made 23cm PA is legendary.

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FOR SALE
\$200
70cm Analogue Television Transmitter
Frequency 444.250MHz



This uses a Mitsubishi 70cm PA Module – M57716

Fully working 70cm analogue Television transmitter. All genuine Minkits components.
High Level Amplitude Modulation.
420 - 430MHz (Standard Frequency Range)
Audio subcarrier input 6.5MHz
Approx. 15 watts output.
Minkits EME44-Rev3 KIT ~ 2002

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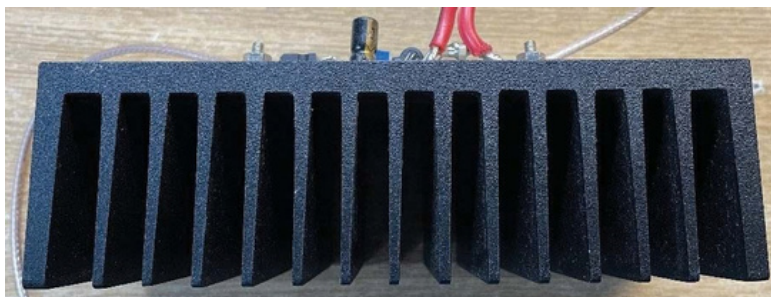
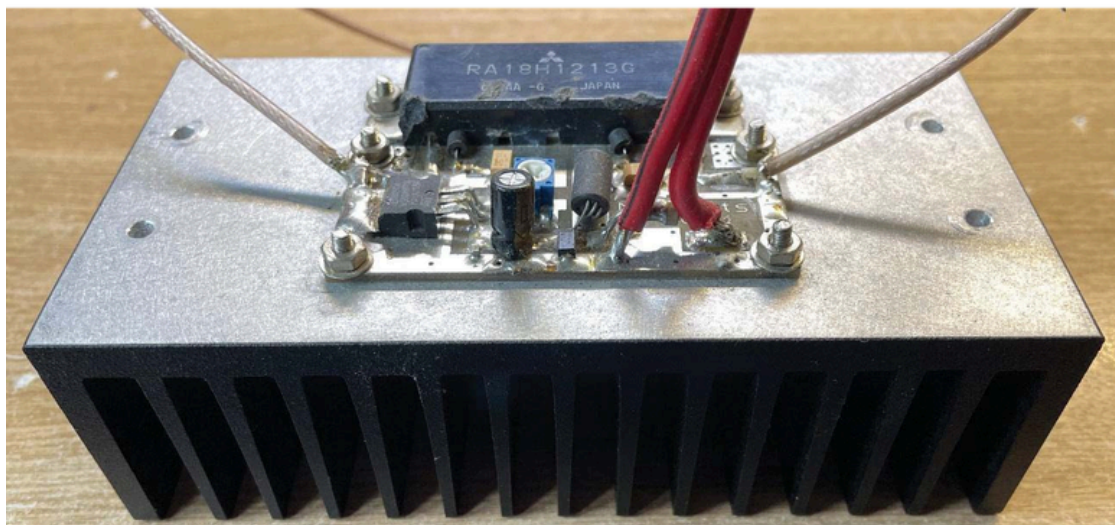
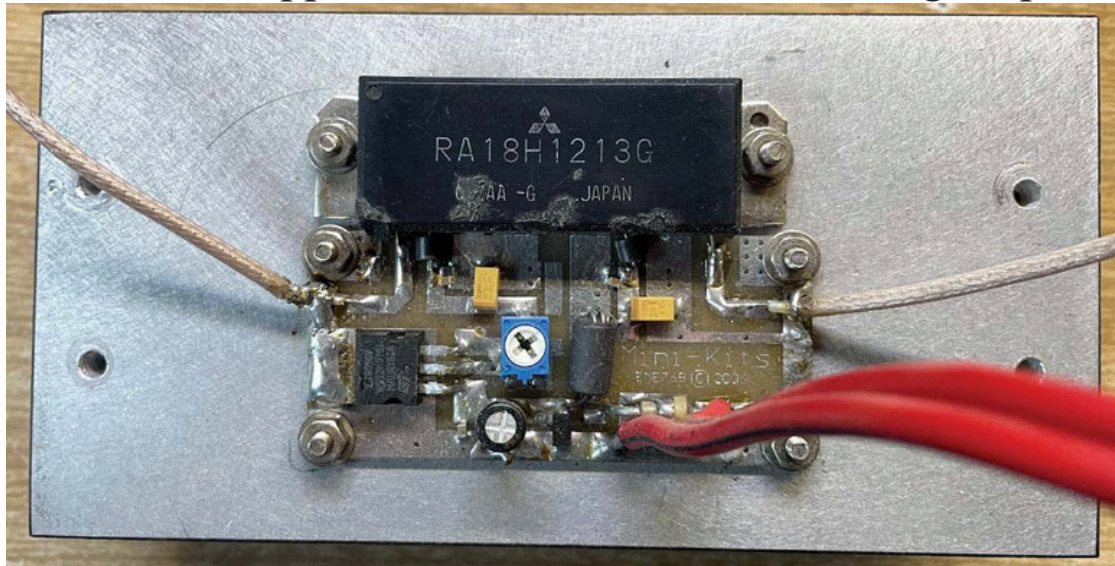
FOR SALE

\$200

18 watt Genuine Mitsubishi 23cm PA Module

Built, tested, working, rear of module fine sandpapered smoothed to the large size heatsink

Genuine Minkit supplied RA18H121G module, no longer in production



Enquires – more information – to purchase - Mick vk3ch@wia.org.au