

# Getting Out of Your Shack

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# Becoming the Hunted...

- Chasing DX (or a new county, or state) is fun, but being chased is funner!
- Two sides of a pileup 📢
- Handin' out the Q's
- Becoming a better op
- Learning by doing
- The ties that bind; friendships that endure



# Many Modes

- Walking
- Riding (Bikes, Airplanes, Tractors...)
- Mobile (VHF, HF, stateside, int'l)
- Field Ops
- Contesting
  - Sweepstakes, IOTA, ARRL DX, CQDX, BSOTA, etc.
- DXpedition



# No matter where you go...

- Licensing (know your privileges)
- Transportation
- Rig (mobile or portable)
- Antenna
- Power
- Operating
- Safety



# So you want to operate “remote”

- What kind of operation?
  - Casual, Committed, or Needs-to-be-Committed?
  - Contesting is Cool
  - DXpedition
- Where are you going?
  - Some special event
  - Activate a county, state, island, country
  - Sit on the beach or a mountain top
  - How close is civilization
- Who’s going with you?
  - Single-op
  - Dual
  - Team
- The absolute essentials
  - Power
  - Food
  - Backup



# Think it through: Logistics

- What gear do you need? (imagine, plan, ask, how far is Radio Shack®)
- Scheduling (permissions, traveling, ops, leaving it all behind)
- What are your Goals? (scale the thing, be clear why you're there)
- Sponsorship (seriously, this happens!)
- Transportation (you, your rigs, antennas, power, food, accoutrements)
- Power (Got gas, er, diesel?)
- Power (QRO?)
- Setting up (Beds or Tents, Operating position(s), Antennas & Coax)
- Operating (Logs, Schedules, Modes, Ops, Pileup Management, Prop & Band planning)
- Tearing down (remember, you'll be tired)
- Getting home
- QSLing



# Or, just wing it!

- Casual operations are a BLAST
- HT, Mobile VHF or HF
- Portable antennas
- Got Power?
- Part of an event?
  - Understand the rules or at least the Exchange
    - What's an Exchange?



# Think it through: Doing it!

- Choosing a site
  - Pitch a tent, rent an island, or share space with the penguins
  - The Internet is your friend
- Getting there
  - Planes, trains, automobiles (and boats)
- Propagation & Band Plans
  - MUF, LUF, Openings, Power
- Antennas





# The Point

- Try another part of our rich, varied hobby
- Share your enthusiasm
- Make new friends
- Learn
- See new places
- Give me a point! :-)



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tkes mni dx om/yl



ZK2V - DXpedition plan  
ZK2V is a single-operator DXpedition. My aim is to give as many stations as I can their first band/mode QSO with ZK2. I am going to Niue to work pile-ups whenever propagation makes it possible. ZK2V will be active for 5 weeks, to compensate for any longer spells of poor propagation worldwide.

To maximise QSOs I will concentrate on CW and SSB on 80, 40, 30, 20 and 17m. Local conditions (as yet unknown) will determine how many antennas I can have installed at the same time - I hope to have at least 40, 30 and 20m antennas available at all times.

Some time will be spent on 160m near the start of the DXpedition, but my 160m antenna is limited and May/June is not a good time of year for 160m to Europe. Some time will be spent on RTTY - 30m and 20m only, later in the DXpedition - I realise that ZK2 is rare on RTTY. The frequency stability of both transceivers I am taking is not good enough for most datamodes.

I anticipate that it should be reasonably easy to work VK/ZL, the U.S.A., most of South America, Japan and East Asia, but Europe, the Middle East and Africa will be more difficult. I'm sure operators in these easier-to-work areas will understand if the bands open to Europe, the Middle East or Africa and I ask them to QRX until later.

I will do my best to ensure that every call sign is accurately logged. I have been issued with a ZK2V certificate for the ARRL 'Logbook of the World' and intend to upload QSOs to LoTW and to update the online log-search every few days if possible.

You will be able to e-mail me at [chris@zk2v.com](mailto:chris@zk2v.com) during the DXpedition (but I will not have time to reply to your e-mail, sorry) - I particularly want to know about paths/openings at certain times of day which could be used e.g. over the South Pole to South Africa at 0430 UTC on 20m (tnx Donovan ZS2DL).

Unless there are unforeseen problems or delays, ZK2V should be QRV by about 2100 Niue time on 16th May = 0800 UTC on 17th May - probably on 40m initially, with 80m and other bands following a.s.a.p.

I hope to work you from ZK2V !

73 Chris ZL1CT/GM3WOJ

[www.qsl.net/gm3woj](http://www.qsl.net/gm3woj)



# Yes, people really are this crazy





# What about my HT???

- Grid squares – where the heck am I?
- Mountaintops – line of sight
- Aviation mobile – as if a pilot has time for this!
- Tropospheric DX – no ionization here...
- Meteors – bacon & eggs, the pig is committed
- 6m – transition between HF and VHF

