



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association
for April 2024



HAARP Needs Ham Help

From ARRL Newsletter Feb 29th

Amateur radio operators and radio astronomers are being asked to help monitor a new research project by the [High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program](#) (HAARP). The project officially began on February 28, but it will run until March 3, 2024.



The High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program array. [University of Alaska Fairbanks, photo]

Some examples of experiments planned for the project are the production of extremely low frequency (ELF) and very low frequency (VLF) emissions and studies on the effects of ionospheric plasma waves on orbiting satellites. HAARP scientists believe these experiments will help lead to a greater understanding of the production and enhancement of ELF and VLF waves, as well as lay groundwork for future studies of satellite interactions with space plasma.

Operating frequencies will vary, but all HAARP transmissions will be between 2.8 and 10 MHz. Actual transmit days and times are highly variable based on real-time ionospheric and/or geomagnetic conditions. There are no specific data collection requests from funded investigators, but reception reports from hams are appreciated and may be submitted to uaf-gi-haarp@alaska.edu or mailed to HAARP PO Box 271, Gakona, AK 99586.

Below are the anticipated operating times and frequencies:

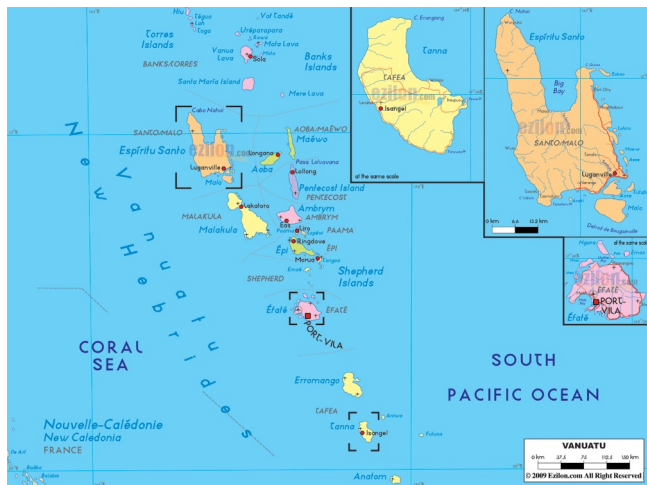
- March 1 from 0130 to 0800 UTC: 2.8, 3.25, 3.3, 4.1, 5.4, 6.8, and 9.6 MHz
- March 2 from 0230 to 0900 UTC: 3.25, 4.5, 5.8, and 9.6 MHz
- March 3 from 0200 to 0800 UTC: 2.8, 3.25, 3.3, 4.1, 5.4, 6.8, and 9.6 MHz

Numerous experiments will operate at frequencies based on the f_oF₂ critical frequency calculation from the Gakona, Alaska, ionograms. For updates on ionospheric conditions in Gakona, consult the ionograms from the [HAARP Diagnostic Suite](#).

Editor's note: Amateurs are reminded that another way they can use their stations to advance scientific understanding of the ionosphere is participating in the upcoming [HamSCI Solar Eclipse QSO Party](#) and associated events surrounding the April 8 eclipse



Vanuatu YJ0VV DXpedition Looking for Team Members



This is the DXpedition you have been waiting for. For this two week DXpedition we are mixing Holiday and Serious DXing. We have limited openings but no matter what your style, you will be welcome. We will be in Vanuatu during several contests including the CQ World-Wide SSB Contest. We will be in Vanuatu from October 16 - 30, 2024. Timing will allow us to take advantage of the excellent Southern Hemisphere springtime propagation on top of the best sunspot activity in years. Since Vanuatu is #74 for most wanted phone on Clublog there should be plenty of pileups.

This DXpedition is open to all hams and their spouses. We have contracted with Vanuatu Luxury Holiday Homes on Efate Island for the Asana home just outside of the capital of Vanuatu, Port Vila, and have sent a deposit. It sleeps nine in five bedrooms and has four bathrooms. For eight guests it will only cost \$1,500 US per person for two weeks. Each person should have an additional budget of \$1,000 US for food, island transportation, and incidentals. Flight cost is not included which would fluctuate depending on departure city, class of flights, insurance and baggage. Shellback Cruises, 843-762-3888, is providing my flights at 33% of Google Flights.

In addition to operating as a DX station we will have the opportunity to operate POTA and IOTA. We have secured a QSL Manager to handle the

over 40,000 expected contacts. If interested contact Van, N4VGE / YJ0VV, as soon as possible, only three more hams are needed.

Sponsors:
Patrons (individuals and companies that have donated more than \$100)
Tommy Billings, AA4TB BuddiPole
Friends of the Vanuatu DXpedition (individuals that have donated more than \$50)

Contact: Van Herridge, N4VGE / YJ0VV
Team Leader
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**Month long special event to celebrate
the 150th Birth Anniversary
of Marconi (1st - 30th April 2024). Check
full details here:
<https://www.150marconi.org/>**

