

WWW.DXSPOT.TV

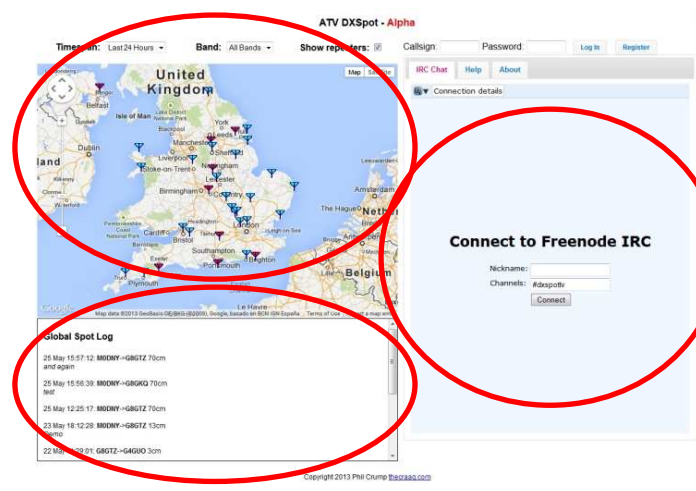
User guide – Issue C May 2013

www.dxspot.tv is a dx cluster chat room facility designed specifically for the worldwide ATV community with an easy to use DX cluster spotting interface for ATV contacts on all bands between 70cms and 3cms. Designed for mobile and PC use, Dxspot.tv includes an instant messaging facility with other ATV operators via a dedicated IRC channel and a real time interactive map showing active ATV stations and repeaters and reported ATV dx spots.

- ATV DX cluster spotting for 70cms – 3cms ATV and DATV
- Interactive map showing all active ATVers worldwide
- Dedicated instant messaging IRC channel for ATV DX working
- Open source environment with github for full development co-operation

Home page

When you first visit the site you will see the following screen which is divided in to 3 main areas:



The interactive map

The map displays stations that are active and licensed UK TV repeaters – active stations have a green icon, active repeaters have a blue icon and non operational but licensed repeaters are shown with a red icon. It will also show any ATV or DATV DX paths that have been reported using DXcluster. Stations that have reported DX spots but are not currently logged in are shown with yellow icons.

- The time span for viewing spots is selected using the “timespan” drop down box in the top left of the screen.
- The second drop down box selects which “Band” the spots and repeaters are active on.
- Unticking the “Show repeaters” box clears the repeaters from the map and just shows active stations and dxspots.
- Clicking on a repeater icon will display information about the repeater on 3 tabs:
 - The first tab shows the repeater call sign, QRA and location
 - The second tab shows tx and rx frequencies – repeaters are reported as being on the band of their primary output but may have inputs / outputs on other bands.

- The third repeater tab includes the group website and other information such as the repeater keeper's call sign.

Global spot log

The area below the map shows a global spot log for all dxcluster spots which are identified with the ATV or DATV description.

IRC chat window

To the right hand side of the screen is the dxspottv chat room window, which when you log will show a list of all other active ATV stations and chat messages between the stations.

Registering

DO NOT enter a nickname or press connect on the Freenode IRC window at this time.

Before you can use the site you need to register by clicking the “**register**” button in the top right hand corner of the main screen.

You will now see the register screen:

New User Registration

Please enter the following information to register for DXSpot.TV


First Name: (IRC nick will be set to *firstname_callsign*)

Callsign: G8GTZ Will be converted to Upper case, eg. M0DNY

Password: (minimum 5 characters)

Email Address:

- Will only be used for administrator contact in case of issues. Will not be publicly disclosed.




[Privacy & Terms](#)

[Register](#)

Station Location

Click to set location, as accurate as you like.



Latitude:

Longitude:

Enter your details, which will be used as to identify you on the interactive map and chat room. Enter your first name and either your call sign or family name if a listener / viewer.

Zoom in and then click on the map to enter your exact location – the latitude and longitude will be filled in automatically and your QRA will then be calculated.

Using DXspot.tv

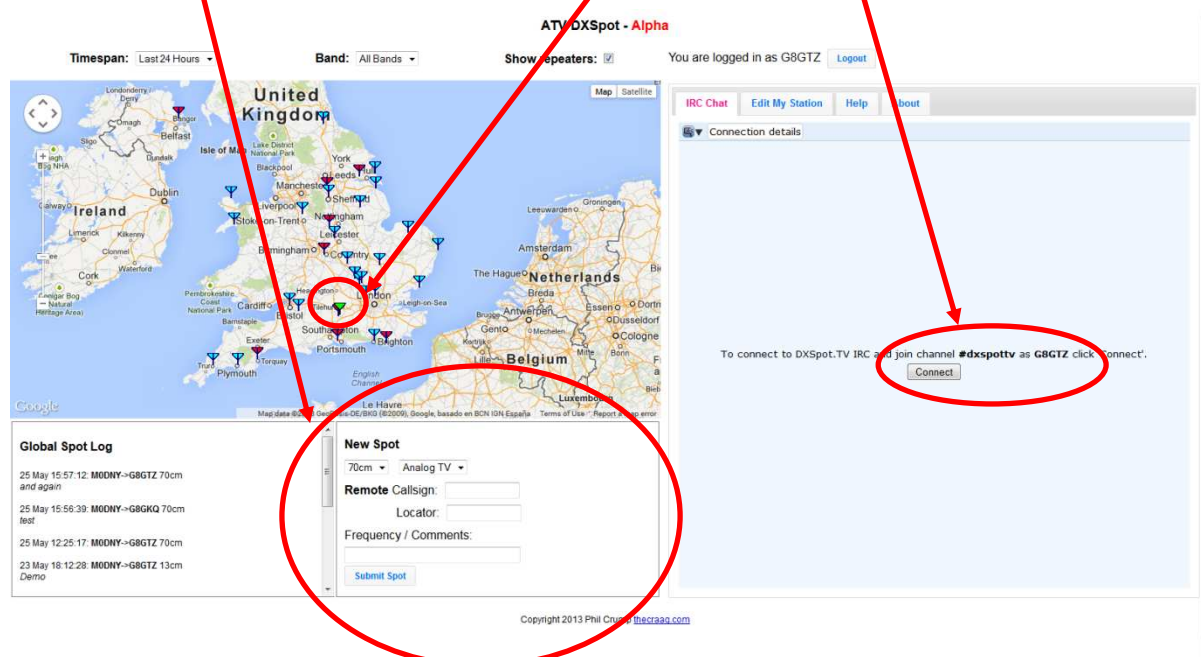
After registration, you will then be returned to the home screen.

Enter your call sign and password in the box at the top right of the screen and press log-in.

Again, DO NOT enter a nickname or press “connect” on the Freenode IRC window at this time.

The home page should now have updated to show the following:

- Your call sign is automatically populated the IRC nickname box
- Your station location is now identified in green
- The Submit New spot box has appeared



IRC chat room

Now press “Connect” in the IRC window and you will be logged in to the dxspottv chat room. The IRC window will then show the logging in process but after a few seconds you will see a clear window with call signs of others who are logged in listed on the right hand side. Type messages in the white area at the bottom of the gray IRC window and press enter to send.

The idea is that you will use the chat room to line up tests between yourself and distant stations and report progress as the QSO develops – the IRC has very little propagation delay and should be able to be used for beam alignment etc.

Interactive map

Once logged in, the “timespan”, “band window” and “show repeaters” boxes all work as described above.

However, once logged in you will see your station on the interactive map identified by a green icon and you can also see the location of the other active stations identified by a green icon. Clicking on the icon will display 2 tabs:

- The first will show the station call sign, his locator and the distance and bearing of the station from your location.
- The second will show details about the station which was entered using the “edit my station” tab in the main window.

Note that when logged in, opening the first tab on the repeater icon will now also give the distance and bearing from your location.



A red line drawn between 2 stations on the map will indicate a QSO which has been reported on dxcluster – clicking on the line allows you to see the 2 stations in the QSO, the distance and the band reported.

It is intended that during lift conditions, stations will report when they receive a distant repeater outputs to indicate which paths are open.

Global spot log

Under the map is the global spot log for all dxcluster spots which are identified with the ATV or DATV description.

Submit new spot

Once logged in as a registered user, a new dialogue box appears to the right of the global spot log. This box allows you to submit QSOs or reception reports via the dxcluster network.

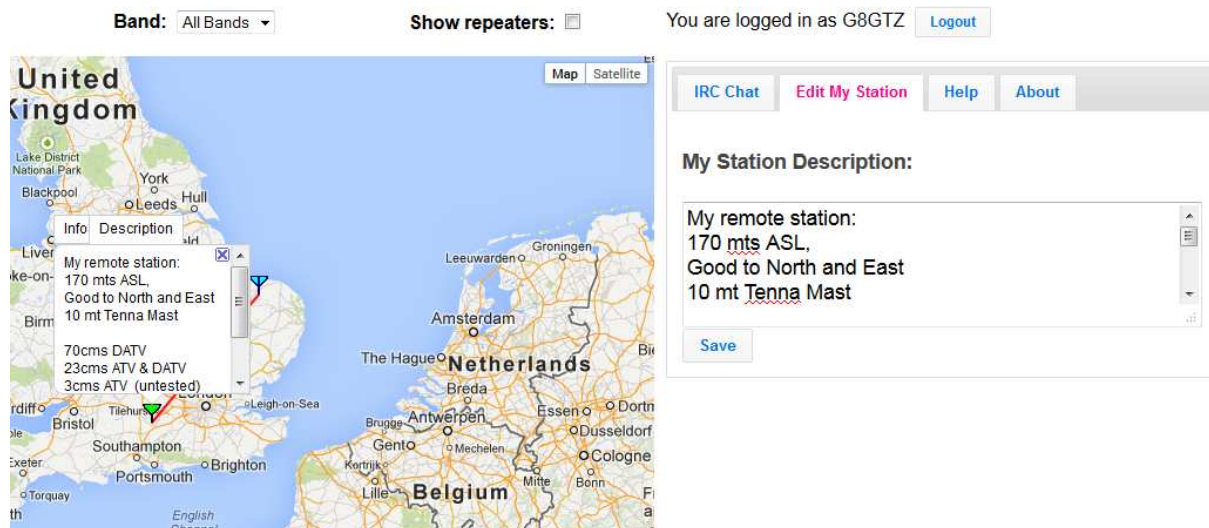
To submit a spot, choose the correct band and mode along with the remote station call sign and locator – note that if the station is in the dxspot.tv database, it will automatically appear when you start typing the call sign. Enter the frequency of the QSO followed by any comments you wish to appear on the dxcluster and press “submit spot”.

The screenshot displays the dxspot.tv web interface. At the top is a map of the British Isles. A red line connects two points on the map, with a pop-up box showing details: "28 May 08:09:24", "G8GTZ -> GB3TN", "70cm 214.3 km", and "437 MHz - test". Below the map is the "Global Spot Log" section, which lists recent spots: "28 May 08:09:24: G8GTZ->GB3TN 70cm 437 MHz - test QSO" and "25 May 15:57:12: M0DNY->G8GTZ 70cm and again". To the right of the log is the "New Spot" form, which includes dropdown menus for band (set to "70cm") and mode (set to "Digital T"), and input fields for "Remote Callsign:", "Locator:", and "Frequency / Comment:".

The dxspot should appear on both the global spot log and on the interactive map within 10 seconds of you submitting the spot. – clicking on the line allows you to see the 2 stations in the QSO, the distance and the band reported.

Edit my station details

On the tab above the default IRC chat window, “Edit my station details” enables you to edit the details that appear on the second tab when clicking on your station icon on the interactive map – the first icon gives the information you entered when registering.



It is recommended that you use this to say what bands you are operating and details of antenna and power output.

Standalone applications and mobile operation

Dxspot.tv was specifically developed using readily available web components – as such it is possible to run separate applications such as a mobile or web IRC client when out portable on a restricted bandwidth 2G connection.

Simply log in to #dxspottv on the 'chat.freenode.net' with your mobile using a dedicated IRC client and you will appear in the active stations list and be able to message any stations logged in via www.dxspot.tv. A future planned enhancement will give an option whereby just logging in to #dxspottv will register you on the interactive map.

Help and feedback

A page has been set up on the BATC forum <http://www.batc.org.uk/forum/> where users can give feedback and help will be available from the ATV community.

Credits and Github

www.dxspot.tv has been developed by Phil Crump, M0DNY, from a specification originally generated by Noel Matthews, G8GTZ. The program has been developed using the github open development environment and new members and contributors are welcome to sign up and help us develop this resource for the ATV community.