

## **Introduction**

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# Terminology

A wee bit of jargon before we start – so we all know what we’re talking about:

<b>Activating</b>	Operating portable from a park, summit, lake, or other portable location
<b>Chasing</b>	Contacting a station who is operating portable. Called <b>hunting</b> by some award programmes
<b>Qualifying</b>	Making the minimum number of contacts from a portable location to qualify for points, awards, recognition of the activation in a given award scheme. Minimum QSO numbers vary between schemes.
<b>Asset</b>	A location belonging to one of the recognised award schemes (e.g. park, lake, summit, lighthouse, etc)
<b>Alert</b>	A notification published on a website or mailing list alerting others to the fact that you plan to be operating portable at a specific time and place
<b>Spot</b>	A notification published on a website or mailing list informing others that you are currently operating portable at a specific place
<b>Activation Zone</b>	The area surrounding an asset within which an activation is valid. This area will vary between asset types and award programmes – see the programme-specific section for details. Also known as <b>AZ</b>

# Activating



## Finding places to go

The ontheair.nz website details all registered assets within NZ that can be activated for the various award programmes. A good place to start is with the map.



You can use the layers menu to choose which type of assets you wish to display on the map. They are not all displayed by default as it gets too crowded. Click the Layers icon and scroll down to Point Layers in the popup. Tick all the map layers you wish to see, and click apply. You can also switch between basemaps to show either airphotos, or public access land details in the layers menu.



If you are using a device with a GPS, then you can show your current position on the map by clicking the GPS button. Your position will be shown as a large pink dot (note that the map does not recentre automatically, so you may need to zoom out or scroll to find the dot).

As you zoom the map, more detailed mapping will be shown with 1:50,000 topomaps shown at the highest zoom levels.

Assets are shown as coloured points as follows:

Symbol	Reference*	Type
	ZLP/XX-####	Park
	ZLL/####	Lake (public access land within AZ)
		Lake (AZ entirely on private land)
	NZ-####	POTA Park
	ZLFF-####	WWFF Park
	ZL#/XX-###	SOTA Summit (public access land within AZ)
		SOTA summit (AZ entirely on private land)
	ZL#/HXX-###	HEMA summit (public access land within AZ)
		HEMA summit (AZ entirely on private land)
	ZLI/XX-###	Island
	ZLV/XXX-###	Volcano
	ZLB/###	Beacon / Lighthouse
	ZLH/XX-###	Back-country hut

\* X – letters, # digits.

If you click on an asset on the map then the right-hand side of the screen will display details about that place (if you are on a mobile or in a small window you will need to click ‘Smaller Map’ to see the right-hand panel).

The Public Access section is important. This gives an indication whether land with a right of public access exists within the activation zone of this asset. It will list the means of public access if they have been found. See the Legal Access section of this document for more details about public access to different types of land in NZ.

If the asset has been activated or chased, you’ll see by who. You can click on their logs ([View](#)) to see what bands they used. They may have added photographs or comments in the sections at the bottom of the page.

Add Alert

## Alerting

An **alert** is an indication that you intend to activate a specific location at a specific **future time**.

Once you've decided where to go, and when to go there, then placing an Alert is a good idea. Sometimes you might head out at the last minute or make an ad-hoc activation just because you are passing, but otherwise - if you have time beforehand - then chasers will be very grateful if you post an Alert. The best time to post an alert is a day or two before you go, to give chasers the chance to plan to be near a radio when you are activating.

An alert is an indication that you intend to activate a specific location at a specific time. You can also include details of the bands and modes you will be activating. It's a statement of intent – not a promise. For example if weather conditions change, no-one expects you to head out in unsafe conditions just because you've alerted.

You can do this in many ways – most commonly using the ontheair.nz website, or by SMS. Other options include by InReach satellite messenger – this is dealt with in a separate section near the end of this document.

### ... via ontheair.nz

Alerts - Going Portable

Operating callsign:	ZL4NVW		
On air from: (Pacific/Auckland)	16 / 08 / 2025	01 : 00 pm	Duration (hours): 1
Freq(s) (MHz):	7.090, 14.310, 21.310	Mode(s):	SSB
Operating from:	ZL3/HOT-002	Or select place ▼	[ZL3/HOT-002] Bounday Spur

Description

Hump activation as part of a family trip - times may vary

☐ I will specify parks manually - do not add automatically

Create Post

Click the **Add Alert** button (it's at the top of the home page and alerts page), and enter details of your planned activation. You will need to include:

Callsign:	Your callsign for the activation
On Air From	Date and Time you will start activating
Duration	Expected length of the activation (in hours)

Frequency and Mode are optional, but will give chasers an idea where to listen, especially if you are not able to spot from the field.

If you are operating from a known reference in an award scheme, then you can type this reference code in the **Operating From** field. You will need to make sure you get the formatting exactly right (though it is not case-sensitive). Or (safer) you can use the **Or select place** dropdown to choose the location from a list or from the map. If you make a mistake, then select Clear to clear the incorrect entry before adding a new one.

If you are going portable to an ad-hoc location, you can simply type the name of the location in under Operating From.

By default the alert will include any assets which contain the place you have selected. For example, if you select a summit and it lies within a park, then the park will be included in your Alert. If you do not want this to happen then check the checkbox to disable this feature:

☐ I will specify parks manually – do not add automatically

Click **Create Post** when done.

### ... via SMS

You can alert via SMS to the ontheair SMS gateway. This is handy if you have poor coverage as SMS will often work where mobile data connections are not available.

The number is **027 3105319**

The SMS ALERT format is:

ALERT <callsign> <reference> <frequency in MHz> <mode> <YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM> <comment>

e.g.

ALERT ZL4NVW ZLL/0006 7.090 SSB 2025-10-31 11:00 Quick activation on my way past

(you can test SMS alerting by sending an alert with **DEBUG** as the first word in the comments. Debug alerts will appear in the Test Alerts channel under the Info menu in the website and will not be emailed out to other users).

Add Spot

## Spotting

A **spot** is a report that a particular operator is on the air **now**, activating a given location.

Once you arrive at your asset's location, and are set up then sending out a **spot** allows chasers to know that you are on air. You can do this in many ways – commonly through a logging app (PoLo, iPnP, VKParks all support ZLOTA spotting) through the ontheair website, by SMS. Other options include by InReach satellite messenger, or over FT8 using SOTAmat. These are dealt with in separate sections near the end of this document.

You can also spot for someone else who you've heard on-air, or who has asked you to do so.

*... via ontheair.nz*

**Spots - Spotted Portable**

Operating callsign:	ZL4NVW		
Freq(s) (MHz):	7.090	Mode(s):	SSB
Operating from:	ZL3/OT-397	Or select place ▼	[ZL3/OT-397] North Rough Ridge Hill (ZL3/OT-397) [2]

Description

Matt calling CQ

☐ I will specify parks manually - do not add automatically

Create Post

Click the **Add Spot** button (it's at the top of the page on the home page or Spots page).

Fill in the form. You'll need to enter:

Callsign:	The callsign of the person making the activation
Freq	Frequency (in MHz)
Mode	FM, AM, SSB, FT8, etc

If you are operating from a known reference in an award scheme, then you can type the reference code in the Operating From field. You will need to make sure you get the formatting exactly right (though it is not case-sensitive).

Or (safer) you can use the **Or select place** dropdown to choose the location from a list, from the map, or using your device's GPS (if it has one).

Note that when using the **from GPS** option, you may get a message saying 'GPS not ready'. If so, wait for the GPS to lock (a pink dot will appear on the map showing your location) and try again. The GPS option will check your current location against all known assets and add any that you are in the activation zone of. If you just get a set of coordinates and no list of assets, it means you are not yet within any AZ.

If you make a mistake, then select Clear to clear the incorrect entry before adding a new one.

If you are just going portable to an ad-hoc location, you can simply type the name of the location, or it's lat, long coordinates, under **Operating From**.

By default the spot will include any assets which contain the place you have selected. For example, if you select a summit and it lies within a park, then the park will be included in your Spot. If you do not want this to happen then check the checkbox to disable this feature:

☐ I will specify parks manually – do not add automatically

Click **Create Post** when done.

### *... via SMS*

You can spot via SMS to the ontheair SMS gateway. This is handy if you have poor coverage as SMS will often work where mobile data connections are not available.

The number is **027 3105319**

The SMS format is:

(SPOT) <callsign> <reference> <frequency in MHz> <mode> <comment>

e.g.

ZL4NVW ZL3/SL-285 7.090 SSB 10 minutes on 40m then QRT

or:

SPOT ZL4NVW ZLL/0001 14.310 SSB Matt needing 1 more contact!

*(you can test SMS spotting by sending a spot with **DEBUG** as the first word in the comments. Debug spots will appear in the Test Spots channel under the Info menu in the website and will not be emailed out to other users).*



[Add Log](#)

## Entering logs

For those who prefer paper logs (or digital notepad apps) in the field over logging programmes, the easiest way to get logs into ontheair (and all the other awards schemes) is to enter them using the ontheair website.

Click **My Logs** on the menu bar to go to your logs page, and click the [Add Log](#) button.

The screen is in two halves.

The **top** half is for details of **your** location and setup.

The **bottom** half of the screen is for the contacts you made and the **other parties** locations

### ... Your Details

**Your Details:**

Callsign: <input type="text" value="ZL4NVW"/>	Date: <input type="text" value="16/08/2025"/>	QRP? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Timezone: <input type="text" value="Pacific/Auckland"/>	Power: <input type="text" value="10"/>	Portable? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Description: <input type="text" value="ZLL/0001"/>	<a href="#">Add Place</a>	
<a href="#">Save my details</a>	I will specify parks manually - do not add automatically <input type="checkbox"/>	

Id	Time	Callsign	QRP?	Portable?	Mode	Freq (MHz)	Name	Location	RST Sent	R
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Fill in the **Your Details** form. You'll need to enter:

- Callsign:** The callsign you used for the activation
- Date** Date the activation commenced (in timezone indicated)
- QRP** Check this if you were QRP (needed to claim QRP points)
- Portable** Check this for all but Home-based operation
- Power** Optionally, enter your tx power

If you were operating from a known reference in an award scheme, then you can type the reference code in the **Description** field. You will need to make sure you get the formatting exactly right (though it is not case-sensitive).

Or (safer) you can use the [Add place](#) dropdown to choose the location from a list or from the map. If you make a mistake, then select Clear to clear the incorrect entry before adding a new one.

If you were just going portable to an ad-hoc location, you can simply type the name of the location in under **Description**.

By default the log will include any assets which contain the place you have selected. For example, if you select a summit and it lies within a park, then the park will be included in your log. If you do not want this to happen then check the checkbox to disable this feature:

☐ I will specify parks manually – do not add automatically

Click the [Save my details](#) button when done.

... continues overleaf

## ... Other Party's details

**Your Details:**

Callsign: ZL4NVW	Date: 01 / 08 / 2025	QRP? <input type="checkbox"/>
Timezone: Pacific/Auckland	Power: 100	Portable? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Description: nz-0053	<a href="#">Add Place</a>	[NZ-0053] Lake Tekapo Regional Park [ZLP/CB-0214] Lake Tekapo Regional Park [ZLL/0749] Lake Tekapo
<a href="#">Update your details</a>	I will specify parks manually - do not add automatically <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

**Contact logs:**

[Save Log](#) Enter your contacts below. Click 'Save Log' when done.

Time	Callsign	QRP	Port	Mode	Frq (MHz)	Snt RS	Rcd RS	Name	Description
17:43	F5NZO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SSB	14.315	55	44		
17:44	VK4CCW	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SSB	14.315	58	57		
17:45	VK4NH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SSB	14.315	57	57		also vk4dxa
17:46	VK3ACZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SSB	14.315	55	57		
17:46	W6ZXY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SSB	14.315	56	52		
17:47	VK3CLD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SSB	14.315	59	57		
17:47	EC4AT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SSB	14.315	55	54		
17:50	VK3HSC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SSB	14.315	50	50		

Once you have saved your details, a spreadsheet-style grid will appear for you to enter the details of your contacts and their locations.

You'll need to enter:

- Time:** Time of the QSO (HH:MM or HHMM)
- Callsign:** The callsign of the person you contacted
- QRP** Check this if the **other party** was QRP
- Portable** Check this if the **other party** was portable
- Mode** The mode used for the contact (AM, FM, SSB, FT8, etc)
- Freq** Frequency of the contact (in MHz)
- Sent RS(T)** Signal report you sent to other party (in ## or ### format)
- Rcd RS(T)** Signal report you received from other party (in ## or ### format)
- Name** (optional) Name of the other party

If the other party was operating from a known reference in an award scheme, then you can type this in the **Description** field. You will need to make sure you get the formatting exactly right (though it is not case-sensitive). Or you can use the [Add place](#) dropdown to choose the other party's location from a list or from the map. If you make a mistake, then select **Clear** to clear the incorrect entry before adding a new one. You can also add a textual description (e.g. Wellington) in **Description**.

By default the contact will include any assets which contain the place you have selected for the other party. For example, if you select a summit and it lies within a park, then the park will be included in the contact. If you do not want this to happen then check the **Mnl?** (manual) checkbox to disable this feature:

Once you have entered once contact, you can add the remainder in the remaining rows. **Mode** and **Frequency** will automatically be copied down as you start to enter the next row's details.

Once you are finished, click the [Save Log](#) button to save the contacts. If you are entering a large number of QSOs, it is worth doing this every now and then as you go along so that you do not lose data if things go wrong. **Data Saved** will appear in the box above the spreadsheet once the save is complete.

Upload Log

## Uploading logs

For those who use logging apps when in the field, it is far easier to upload your log from the than type it in again. Export the log from your app in ADIF format.

In PoLo you are recommended to use the **Export All** rather than **Export ZLOTA** option, as the 'All' option will include all details of your contacts across all award schemes, not just ZLOTA.

Click **My Logs** on the menu bar to go to your logs page, and click the [Upload Log](#) button.

Select your log and click the 'Upload' button. Logs must be in ADIF format or SOTA CSV V2 format

[Advanced options v](#)

Some log programs do not include callsign or location for your station or operator. Select a default to apply where no station/operator or location is specified for you in the log. You can ignore this if you know the log contains correct callsign / location information.

Station callsign:

Station location reference (e.g. ZLL/0001):

Import only contacts with current registered users:

☐

Ignore errors and save valid contacts:

☐

I will specify parks manually - do not add automatically:

☐

Filename:

No file selected.

By default the log created at ontheair will include any assets which contain the place you have activated. For example, if you upload a log for a summit and it lies within a park, then the park will be included in your log. If you do not want this to happen then check the checkbox to disable this feature:

☐ I will specify parks manually – do not add automatically

Browse for the logfile and click [Upload Log](#) when done.

### ... Advanced options

Some logging programmes not designed specifically for activations do not include all the details we need to create an activator log. For example the log may be missing the **activator callsign** or the **reference** for the asset you were activating. You can specify these manually under [Advanced Options](#).

For larger FT8 activations with 50+ of contacts, consider limiting the QSOs you upload to only those with registered users. This keeps our database manageable in size whilst still crediting all registered users with the contacts. You can do this by checking

☐ Import only contacts with current registered users

Where logs contain invalid entries we will show error messages indicating what went wrong. By default the entire log is rejected if it contains one invalid entry. You can tell the system to instead ignore and continue with the rest of the contacts by checking:

☐ Ignore errors and save valid contacts

## Forwarding logs to other award programmes

If you activated assets from award programmes such as POTA, WWFF, SOTA and HEMA, then you should forward your logs to those programmes too. Do this even if you are not interested in that award scheme yourself – your logs will be needed so that chasers get their credits in that programme. And some of your chasers will almost certainly want that.

The screenshot shows the OnTheAir website interface. The top navigation bar includes links for '...OnTheAir', 'Info', 'Places', 'Results', 'My Logs', 'Spots', 'Alerts', and a user profile dropdown for 'ZL4NVW'. The user menu is open, displaying options: 'Admin', 'Profile', 'My Awards (beta)', 'My Contacts', 'Unmatched contacts with Me', 'Lake Activator Log', 'Lake Chaser Log', 'SOTA Logs', 'HEMA Logs', 'POTA Logs', 'WWFF Logs', 'Mail', 'Users', and 'Sign out'. Below the menu, the main content area shows a search bar for places, active alerts for ZL1AB and ZL1PSH, and a table of latest Oceania spots. The table lists spots for ZL4DE, VK5DG, and VK5SE-007.

Call Sign	Time	Location	Frequency	Mode	Notes
ZL4DE	2025-08-16 15:53:00	Pacific/Auckland	14.318	SSB	SPOT: ZL4DE spotted portable at Waipapa Point[ZLB/096] on 14.318/SSB at 2025-08-16 15:53:00 (Pacific/Auckland)
VK5DG	2025-08-16 15:32:42	Pacific/Auckland	14.318	SSB	*David [iPnP] [VK5DG] (respot) (log chase)
VK5SE-007	2025-08-16 15:32:41	Pacific/Auckland	14.318	SSB	*David [iPnP] [VK5SE-007] (respot) (log chase)

You can find options to export your SOTA and POTA logs in ADIF format under your callsign (top-right) on the menu bar. These ADIF files can then be uploaded to each scheme's official website.

WWFF logs can be emailed to the ZL WWFF coordinator from the same menu.

HEMA logs can be uploaded directly to HEMA from the menu – but you'll need a HEMA account and will be prompted to enter your HEMA username and password. Usernames and passwords are sent directly to HEMA – they are not saved or logged at ontheair.nz

Full details of other award programmes are given later in this document.

# Chasing:

## Spots

## Spots page

The Spots page shows all current portable operations that have been reported by the various ZL, VK and worldwide spotting sites. By default the screen will show you all spots reported in Oceania in the previous hour.

Last updated: 15:55:26 (Pacific/Auckland) - Retrieved at 15:56:06 (Pacific/Auckland) [Refresh Now](#)

Showing Oceania spots. [Show All DXCC](#) || Showing all classes. [Show only ZLOTA SOTA POTA WWFF](#) || Showing all modes. [Show only AM CW FM FT4 FT8 SSB](#)

Active Alerts: [ZL1AB@NZ-0026.ZLP/AK-0477](#) [ZL1AB@ZLB/065](#)

Spots					
ZLOTA	2025-08-16 15:53:00 (Pacific/Auckland)	ZL4DE	@ ZLB/096 ZLP/SL-0451	de: ZL4DE	14.318-SSB
- SPOT: ZL4DE spotted portable at Waipapa Point[ZLB/096] on 14.318/SSB at 2025-08-16 15:53NZ - QRV <a href="#">(respot)</a> <a href="#">(log chase)</a>					
SOTA	2025-08-16 15:32:42 (Pacific/Auckland)	VK5DG	@ VK5/SE-007	de: VK5DG	10.125-SSB
- *David [iPnP] [VK5DG] <a href="#">(respot)</a> <a href="#">(log chase)</a>					
PnP: SOTA	2025-08-16 15:32:41 (Pacific/Auckland)	VK5DG	@ VK5/SE-007	de: VK5DG	10.125-SSB
- *David [iPnP] [VK5DG] <a href="#">(respot)</a> <a href="#">(log chase)</a>					
ZLOTA	2025-08-16 15:24:00 (Pacific/Auckland)	ZL3NLA	@ ZLB/099 ZLP/CB-0160	de: ZL3NLA	21.074-FT8
- SPOT: ZL3NLA spotted portable at Godley Head[ZLB/099] on 21.074/FT8 at 2025-08-16 15:24NZ - QSY <a href="#">(respot)</a> <a href="#">(log chase)</a>					
PnP: POTA	2025-08-16 15:17:54 (Pacific/Auckland)	VK2AIH	@ GIRRAWEE NATIONAL PARK	de: VK4EMP	7.144-
- Rhian calling CQ					
POTA	2025-08-16 15:17:54 (Pacific/Auckland)	VK2AIH	@ AU-1343	de: VK4EMP	7.144-
Girraween National Park - Rhian calling CQ <a href="#">(respot)</a> <a href="#">(log chase)</a>					
PnP: SOTA	2025-08-16 15:16:13 (Pacific/Auckland)	VK1ACE	@ VKFF-0377	de: VK1ACE	14.0-SSB
VK1/AC-025 - QRT Trx chasers VK portalog <a href="#">(respot)</a> <a href="#">(log chase)</a>					

The top few lines allow you to **filter** the results by continent, scheme and mode.

Clicking Show all ... will clear that filter.

E.g. clicking Show all DXCC will clear the Oceania-only filter and show all spots worldwide. You will then get the option of filtering back down to a specific continent.

Below the filters a grey banner lists all current **Alerts** – that is all alerts matching your filter where users planned to be active at the current time. The Alerts banner can be scrolled / swiped sideways if reaches the end of the screen.

You can switch to the full alerts screen to see more details of alerts, as well as past and upcoming alerts, by clicking the [Active Alerts](#) link.

The majority of the screen is taken up by the list of current **spots**. These are ordered by time with most recent at the top. As spots are sourced from a range of sites around the world, the same spot may be listed multiple times against various sources (e.g. SOTA and PnP in the above example).

Columns are:

Info source	Time spotted	Activator callsign	Reference / location	Spotter callsign	Frequency - Mode
	Comments <a href="#">(actions)</a>				

If you make contact with any of these activations you can immediately log your contact from this screen by clicking [Log chase](#) against the spot

You can also create a new spot for the activation and add your own comments, report frequency changes, etc by clicking [Respot](#) against the spot

Hovering over a callsign with the mouse will show you the country and continent of the call – handy for unfamiliar DX!

Spots are pulled from remote sources by the server once per minute and are also refreshed on you screen once per minute. This means there may be up to a 2 minute delay between a spot being posted on a remote server (e.g SOTAWatch) and appearing on your screen. You can refresh your view from the ontheair server by clicking [Refresh Now](#).

The auto-refresh will stop if the internet connection times out, and Timed Out will be displayed instead of the latest retrieved time. This will also occur on a mobile device if your browser does not have permissions to continue operating when the screen is off. Click [Refresh Now](#) to restart the updates.

You can also subscribe to receive emailed notifications of all new ontheair spots. See the **Email Subscriptions** section for details

## Alerts

## Alerts page

The **Alerts** page looks similar to the pots page, but shows planned activations rather than current ones.

Going portable - Alerts				
Last updated: 16:19:24 (Pacific/Auckland) - Retrieved at 16:19:50 (Pacific/Auckland) <a href="#">Refresh Now</a>				
Showing Oceania alerts. <a href="#">Show All DXCC</a>   Showing all classes. <a href="#">Show only ZLOTA SOTA POTA WWFF</a>				
PnP: KRMNPA	2025-11-08 13:00 (Pacific/Auckland)	VK5PAS/P	@ VKFF-0549	7.144-SSB
Wyperfeld National Park -				
PnP: KRMNPA	2025-11-08 13:00 (Pacific/Auckland)	VK5MAZ/P	@ VKFF-0373	7.144-SSB
Murray-Sunset National Park -				
PnP: KRMNPA	2025-11-08 13:00 (Pacific/Auckland)	VK5PAS/P	@ VKFF-0373	7.144-SSB
Murray-Sunset National Park -				
PnP: KRMNPA	2025-11-08 13:00 (Pacific/Auckland)	VK5MAZ/P	@ VKFF-0549	7.144-SSB
Wyperfeld National Park -				
SOTA	2025-08-29 18:30 - 2025-08-29 19:30 (Pacific/Auckland)	VK5CZ	@ VK5/NE-110	7.0-
Windee Hill, 531m, 2 pts - Will spot when there (de VK5CZ)				
ZLOTA <a href="#">View</a>	2025-08-16 12:01 - 2025-08-16 13:01 (Pacific/Auckland)	ZL2JML	@ ZLL/0575	7.09-SSB
Lake Paringa [ZLL/0575] (RE46gg); -				
ZLOTA <a href="#">View</a>	2025-08-16 12:01 - 2025-08-17 12:01 (Pacific/Auckland)	ZL1AB	@ NZ-0026 ZLP/AK-0477	40.0-
Waitakere Ranges Regional Park [NZ-0026] (RF73ga); -				
ZLOTA <a href="#">View</a>	2025-08-16 12:01 - 2025-08-17 12:01 (Pacific/Auckland)	ZL1AB	@ ZLB/065	40.0-
Piha [ZLB/065] (RF73ta); -				
PnP: POTA	2025-08-16 12:01 (Pacific/Auckland)	ZL1AB	@ NZ-0026	40.0-
Ongaruanuku - (de ZL1AB)				

As with spots you can filter the alerts based on continent and programme. By default all Oceania alerts are listed.

Clicking Show all ... will clear that filter.

E.g. clicking Show all DXCC will clear the Oceania-only filter and show all spots worldwide. You will then get the option of filtering back down to a specific continent.

Alerts may be posted days, weeks or even months in advance. The latest start-date is shown at the top.

As the list can be long, the current calendar day's alerts are highlighted in yellow to help you locate them in the list.

The calendar day used depends on your account's timezone setting: if you have selected UTC then the current UTC day will be highlighted. If you have selected Pacific/Auckland then the current local day will be highlighted. Edit your profile (under your callsign – top right) to change your timezone setting.

Alerts which span the current time (start before now, end after now) are highlighted green. These are the same alerts that appear on the brief alerts banners on the Spots and Home page.

ZL1AB updated in Alerts - Going Portable on 2025-08-14

[Edit](#) [Reply](#) [Delete](#)

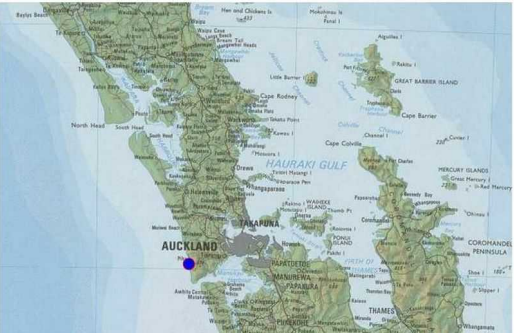
ZL1AB Alerts - Going Portable on/from 2025-08-16 12:01 (Pacific/Auckland) for 24 hour(s)

[\[ZLB/065\] Piha](#)

40m, 20m, 30m, 17m, 15m, 10m -

ZLOTA alerts will have a [View](#) link that takes you to the original post that created the alert. Here you will find further information including a map (if a location was specified)

You can also subscribe to receive emailed notifications of all new ontheair alerts. See the **Email Subscriptions** section for details





## (log chase) Logging chases

Some award programmes, notable SOTA and HEMA have a requirement for chasers to log spots. Some, such as POTA and WWFF rely entirely on activators to upload logs (and if they don't – chasers miss out). ZLOTA allows both parties to upload logs.

The recommendation is that you log chases:

- For all SOTA and HEMA chases
- For ZLOTA chases where you want to ensure you get credited with the contact

My Call	ZL4NVW
Activator Call	VK2AWN
Activating	AU-8909
Date	16 / 08 / 2025
Time	04 : 40 : 00 . 000 am
Freq (MHz)	7.16
Mode	SSB
QRP?	<input type="checkbox"/>
/P?	<input type="checkbox"/>
RS(T) sent	
RS(T) recd	
Comments	
<a href="#">Log Chase</a>	

The simplest way to log a chase is at the time, using the [Log Chase](#) link on the spots screen as discussed in the **Spots** section above.

This will take you to a simple single-contact log screen where you can enter details of the QSO. The callsigns, time, mode, frequency and activator's location will already be completed for you based on the spot.

All you need to do is enter the signal report you sent to the other operator – RS(T) sent, and the signal report you received from the other operator – RS(T) recd. These should be entered in ## or ## format – e.g. 59 or 599.

Other optional fields can be completed as you required.

Click [Log Chase](#) when done.

A chaser log will be created containing this single QSO.

Alternatively you can create a single log for all chases on a given day. See the **Entering Logs** section under **Activations** for details of how to do this. The only difference for a chaser log is that you do not need to specify a reference under **Your Details** as you are not activating yourself, but you do need to select or specify a location for the party you are chasing against their QSO.

<b>Your Details:</b>											
Callsign	ZL4NVW	Date:	21 / 06 / 2025	QRP?	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Timezone:	Pacific/Auckland	Power:		Portable?	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Description		<a href="#">Add Place</a>									
<a href="#">Update your details</a>		I will specify parks manually - do not add automatically <input type="checkbox"/>									
<b>Contact logs:</b>											
<a href="#">Save Log</a>											
Enter your contacts below. Click 'Save Log' when done.											
Time	Callsign	QRP	Port	Mode	Freq (MHz)	Snt RS	Rcd RS	RS Name	Description	Mnl?	codes
11:13	ZL3GA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SSB	7.085	59	57		ZL3/CB-822	<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Add Place</a>
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>							<input type="checkbox"/>	<a href="#">Add Place</a>

Once you have logged your SOTA and HEMA chases at ontheair.nz, you should also forward them to the SOTA or HEMA websites. You'll see 'Chaser Log' listed under both your **SOTA Logs** and **HEMA Logs** lists. See the relevant section of this document for SOTA / HEMA to see how to send these through.

# Honour Rolls and Awards

Results ▾

## Honour Rolls

As with SOTA, POTA and others, ZLOTA is not intended to be a competitive sport. However, tracking your progress and those of others around you can be part of the fun. As such we include Honour Rolls for each class of asset in the ZLOTA scheme.

You can see the **Honour Rolls** under the **Results** menu at the top of the screen.

The first line on the honour rolls screen lists the four categories of statistics that are kept:

- Bagged The **unique** assets you have chased **or** activated
- Activated The number of assets you have **activated** making at **least one QSO**, with revisits allowed once per calendar year.
- Qualified The number of assets you have **activated** making at least the **minimum required number of QSO** for that asset type, with revisits allowed once per UTC calendar year.
- Chased The number of assets you have **chased**, with additional chases of the same asset allowed once per UTC calendar day.

Bagged		Activated				Qualified			Chased		
Position	Callsign	Hump	Hut	Island	Lake	Lighthouse	Park	Volcano	Summit Elevation	P2P	QRP
1	<a href="#">ZL3RIK</a>	17	23	22	355	91	807	22	520.8 km	920	96
2	<a href="#">ZL3QR</a>	23	17	17	327	95	709	22	623.9 km	7	17
3	<a href="#">ZL2STR</a>	16	37	51	347	93	661	19	494.7 km	1244	346
4	<a href="#">ZL1BQD</a>	12	21	18	197	38	606	10	447.2 km	763	110
5	<a href="#">ZL3JD</a>	15	5	13	167	69	587	27	419.4 km	20	19
6	<a href="#">ZL1GA</a>	20	15	13	117	64	566	24	122.5 km	782	224
7	<a href="#">ZL3OY</a>	13	8	9	231	66	535	19	110.8 km	9	22
8	<a href="#">ZL3ABY</a>	17	9	10	177	69	518	16	159.6 km	152	60
9	<a href="#">ZL4NVW</a>	26	139	41	179	42	489	13	692.2 km	2471	402

Click on a heading to display the statistics for that category.

The second line lists the classes of asset for which statistics are kept, e.g Lighthouse, Park, Volcano.

Click on the heading to sort the table by that category.

Additional categories are listed for:

Summit Elevation  
P2P

Total cumulative **summit elevation** for SOTA, HEMA and volcanos

Number of **Portable-to-Portable** contacts where at least one participant is in a ZLOTA asset and the other is in an asset in any recognised award scheme (ZOTA, SOTA, POTA etc)  
Note that you get one P2P for each asset each operator is activating – so if you are on a summit in a park then you get one P2P contact for each asset (2 total)

QRP

Number of contacts for which you were operating **QRP**. This relies on the **QRP** tickbox in **Your Details** in your logs, so make sure you tick it if relevant. If you operate QRP for only part of an activation, you will need to submit two logs (sorry!).



## Awards:

## Awards

ZLOTA isn't about trophies, or certificates for your wall. But we do hand out some virtual awards as pixels against your callsign on the ontheair website - to give you targets to aim for, if that is your thing.

Awards:			
Award	Score	Achieved	Next
Hut Activator (qualified)	55	Silver (30)	Gold (100)
Hut Chaser	69	Silver (30)	Gold (100)
Island Activator (qualified)	25	Silver (30)	Gold (100)
Island Chaser	11	Bronze (10)	Silver (30)
Kilometers High Club (activator)	669.585	Emerald (300)	Diamond (1000)
Kilometers High Club (chaser)	225.572	Gold (100)	Emerald (300)
Lake Activator (qualified)	82	Silver (30)	Gold (100)
Lake Chaser	163	Gold (100)	Emerald (300)
Lake Uniques (bagged)	179	Gold (100)	Emerald (300)
Lighthouse Activator (qualified)	12	Bronze (10)	Silver (30)
Lighthouse Chaser	38	Silver (30)	Gold (100)
Lighthouse Uniques (bagged)	42	Silver (30)	Gold (100)
Park Activator (qualified)	237	Gold (100)	Emerald (300)

### Worked-all-Region Awards: ([show progress](#))

Region	Class	Activity	Date awarded	Date expired
Taranaki Region	Chaser	Lighthouses (1/1)	2024-06-24	

### Worked-all-District Awards: ([show progress](#))

District	Class	Activity	Date awarded	Date expired
Central Otago District (Otago )	Activator	Islands (2/2)	2023-03-31	
Central Otago District (Otago )	Activator	Lakes (20/20)	2023-03-31	
Invercargill City (Southland )	Chaser	Lakes (1/1)	2023-03-31	

You can view your awards in the menu under your callsign (top-right of the screen).

There are three categories of awards on the system:

### Threshold awards

These are based on your result in the honour rolls and give you an award for activating / chasing / bagging 10, 30, 100, 300, etc assets of a given type (or kilometers, for summit elevation).

### Worked all Region awards

These are awarded for chasing or activating every asset of the specified type in a regional council region. Some are easy (how many lighthouses are there in Taranaki?). Others are immensely challenging (summits in Fiordland, anyone?).

### Worked all District awards

Because activating, for example, all the summits in Otago, seems a little over the top, we break some categories down to district council districts.

The threshold-based awards table shows you your current score, the latest award threshold you have achieved, and the next threshold award you can aim for.

For worked all region or worked all district awards you will need to click on the [Show Progress](#) link to see your progress towards any yet-unclaimed awards.

### Other people's awards

If you want to see what awards other people have achieved you can view the same information by clicking on the [Show Awards](#) link on their **Profile** page. You can find their profile page either by clicking on their callsign anywhere it appears, or by searching for them in the **Users** page (which you'll find in the menu under your callsign, top-right).

# Award Programmes:

## ZLOTA / NZART

The ZLOTA award programme covers a number of asset types, all of which come with slightly different rules. The latest rules for the programme can be viewed by selecting ZLOTA – Rules from the Info menu at [ontheair.nz](http://ontheair.nz)

Where possible ZLOTA aligns with the equivalent NZART award programme. Where discrepancies exist (where NZART requirements are incompatible with ZLOTA in a way that cannot be accommodated at the ZLOTA end) we are working to eliminate them through updating the NZART ruleset.

### ZLOTA General Rules

#### G. Scoring

1. You will receive activator points for a qualifying activation of a location once per UTC calendar **year**. Reactivating it within the year is a valid activation but will not add to your points.
2. You will receive chaser points for chasing a location once per UTC calendar **day**. Contacting another operator at the same location on the same day is a valid contact, but will not add to your chaser points.
3. Contacts between the same operators and locations on multiple bands or modes count only as a single contact for ZLOTA (but check rules for other award schemes - e.g. POTA/WWFF)
4. Your bagged score is the list of unique locations you have either activated or chased. Locations can be bagged only once by each operator.
5. The first person to activate or chase a hut, park, lake, lighthouse or island gets bragging rights for participating in the *first activation* of that location.

#### H. Required information

1. You must exchange, at minimum: callsigns and signal reports (or equivalent verbal information where a signal meter is not present). Exchange of references is also encouraged.
2. Your log must include (at minimum): time, date, frequency/band, mode, both callsigns, location/reference of the activating party(s), and both signal reports.

#### I. Callsigns

1. Contacts and awards belong to the operator, not the callsign. So if you have held multiple **personal callsigns**, then all resulting contacts are combined.
2. If a **club callsign** is registered as a separate ontheair account, contacts logged are to the club, otherwise contacts can count towards the operators personal tally.

#### J. General

1. The competition is open-ended and has no closing date.
2. Historic (pre 2020) contacts can be included
3. Activators must operate off-grid (you must be powered by a power supply you brought with you).
4. Operation from within a vehicle or structure is permitted for ZLOTA (but check rules for other awards schemes, specifically SOTA)
5. There is no limit on power. QRP or QRO - all welcome. It's your call how much radio gear you wish to lug into the backcountry!
6. Participants must comply with their license conditions and all published legislation, bylaws and park regulations.
7. The **operator** must be **within the activation zone**. Antennas and support can extend beyond the activation zone if required.

# **NZART General Rules**

## **Rules for all NZART Awards**

1. NZART stresses the 'honour system.' Award applicants do not have to hold QSL cards for claimed contacts. It is sufficient to merely certify that the QSO was legitimately made. This rule applies to all NZART sponsored awards.
2. QSOs made by IRLP, Echolink, or other Internet enabled communication are not acceptable for any award. All QSOs must be by two-way conversation made by radio. D-Star and other DV modes are only acceptable if they are radio to radio contacts with no Internet linking.
3. Cross-band operation is not acceptable for any awards.
4. Repeater QSOs are valid only when specifically stated in the individual award rules.
5. Awards are open to SWL (shortwave listeners) as well as amateur radio operators worldwide.
6. Satellite and EME contacts are acceptable if they are radio to radio contacts with no Internet linking.

*Note that point 2 is explicitly contradicted in many individual award rules which allow SDR use so long as the SDR is in the same DXCC as the operator. The individual award rules should be assumed to take precedence over the general rules in this case.*



Huts on the Air was the starting point for the ZLOTA programme. A small number of QRP operators who worked, volunteered or spent recreational time in the backcountry regularly put their radios on 3.690KHz of an evening to talk to each other, and to all comers. The atmosphere was more informal than a typical activation – a mix of some folks calling in for a ragchew, others wanting to ‘bag’ a contact with the hut. Rather than the activator calling CQ, they would alert in advance the time and frequency, and chasers would call in at their leisure. Increasingly a following of chasers grew and we put together the predecessor of this website so that chasers and activators alike could track which huts they had contacted.

The original group has drifted away since then, but some activators keep up this tradition – leaving the radio on for the evening to see who calls in. Others treat huts no differently to a park or lake – calling CQ until they have the numbers in the log that they require. As activator, the choice, naturally, is all yours!

All DOC huts are included in the programme, as is any backcountry hut listed on the <https://hutbagger.co.nz> website. Club huts and private huts can also be included so long as they are off-grid, off-road and backcountry. If you have a hut you want adding, contact [admin@ontheair.nz](mailto:admin@ontheair.nz) with details and we’ll check its validity and add it. There are currently about 950 public DOC huts, and a little over 1100 total huts in the ZLOTA scheme.

With the exception of a few roadend shelters, most huts are several kilometers from a road, and will require foot (or sometimes bicycle or boat) access.

When activating a hut, be considerate to other users – not everyone is there to listen to you play radio! To aid you in this, ZLOTA allows activations from anywhere within 100m of the hut, or from its official designated campsite – where one exists.

## **ZLOTA Rules**

### **A. Huts - [ZLH/XX-###]**

1. A **single** contact from a backcountry hut is all it takes to *qualify* an activation of a hut
2. The *activation zone* for a hut is within **100m** of the hut, or from within its associated / designated camping area.
3. Huts must be either DOC or club huts or off-grid, back country private huts to be valid for ZLOTA.

## **NZART**

There is currently no NZART huts award. However, DOC huts count towards the DOCLands award. See the NZART website for details.



The ZLOTA Parks list was established to create a definitive list of genuine parks in New Zealand. At that time the number of parks in both POTA and WWFF were very limited, and POTA especially was an ad-hoc collection of people's favourite places, many of which weren't even official parks (both have since improved considerably – see their sections for details).

There are about 35,000 gazetted parks in New Zealand – that is parcels of land owned by the Crown and protected under one of the various acts – Conservation Act, Reserves Act, National Parks Act, Local Government Act, etc. The vast majority of these, by number, are marginal strips / Queen's chain – sections of crown-owned riverbank with a right of public use, but in most cases no practical access. The list also contains numerous cemeteries, rugby pitches, land set aside for future schools, ports, etc.

To keep things manageable, and to ensure practical access we applied 3 restrictions to inclusion of parks in the ZLOTA ZLP Parks list:

- Must be  $\geq 10\text{ha}$
- Must not be a marginal strip, Queens chain, esplanade reserve
- Must not be a 'local or government purpose reserve' dedicate to a purpose that does not guarantee public access

With the above condition, a bit over 3700 parks in New Zealand qualify for inclusion in ZLOTA.

The full list of official parks managed by DOC and district councils in New Zealand can be downloaded from LINZ – the government agency charged with recording land status and title. We pull updates from that list into ontheair from time to time.

<https://data.linz.govt.nz/layer/53564-protected-areas/>

For regional parks, gazetted under S.160 of the Local Government Act, you will need to source the information from the regional council or unitary authority in question. Under the act, these parks must be recorded as regional parks in the regional plan / unitary plan and have a documented Park Management Plan.

Note that both district and regional councils often also own freehold land which is not gazetted as a park, has no legal protection, can be sold or used at any time in the future for development, but is treated as a park in the interim. Such land does not qualify as a park in ZLOTA or any of the other awards schemes.

To activate a park, you and your antenna must be within the park. For clarity: running an antenna along the boundary fence of the park is permitted.



## ZLOTA Rules

### B. Parks - [ZLP/XX-####]

1. **Four** contacts from a conservation area is all it takes to *qualify* an activation of a park
2. The *activation zone* is the area **within the park boundary**.
3. To be valid for ZLOTA, parks must be listed in the LINZ 'Protected Areas' database, or listed by a Regional Council as a Regional Park; *and*
4. Parks must be  $\geq 10$ Ha in size; *and*
5. Parks must not be classified as 'marginal strips' (a.k.a esplanade reserves, queen's chain) or 'local purpose reserves' (e.g. scout huts, community halls, etc)
6. For marine parks (that is any park established to protect areas of sea, who's extent is bounded by the high/low/mid tide mark) the activation zone extends 100m onshore beyond the high tide mark
7. All parks listed at ontheair.nz count towards the NZART Parklands award.

## NZART Rules

### New Zealand Parklands Award

This Award is for Activating and/or Chasing gazetted Crown-owned Protected Areas or Regional Parks, henceforth referred to as 'parks'. Parks must have to be in the ZLP list, that is they have been assigned a ZLP/XX-#### reference. To qualify for inclusion in the ZLP list the park must be:

- Either:
  - listed in the Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) protected areas database
  - Or: designated by a regional council or unitary authority as a regional park.
- $\geq 10$ ha in size
- Not be classified as a 'marginal strip' or 'local purpose reserve'

All qualifying ZLP parks are listed at: <https://ontheair.nz/parks>. As of May 2024, a total of 3,795 parks are included.

The general rules for all NZART Awards apply.

Use of internet-connected SDRs by Chasers is permitted so long as the SDR is located in the same DXCC as the Chaser

### NZ PARKLANDS Award Rules.

1. Four (4) contacts required to activate a park. Chasers only require one (1) contact for each Park.  
All contacts must be made within a single UTC calendar day. Contacts on different UTC days will count as separate activations when determining whether the minimum QSOs per activation has been achieved..
2. Both activator and Antenna/s are to be within the Park Boundaries.
3. Simplex only on any band within the activators license privileges. Ie. No repeaters but satellite contacts are permitted.
4. Any Mode permitted. Certificates will be awarded for mixed modes, same band, same Mode,
5. Multiple parks are allowable from the same location providing they are ZLP/xx-####
6. Certificates will be issued for Activators and Chasers. Once a activator has earned their award then they can claim an award for "chasing" the same parks. (To clarify it does not matter in which order, Activating or Chasing, a Park is done.)
7. Certificates will be issued for.

Bronze	10 parks
Silver	30 parks
Gold	60 parks
Merit	100 parks

Merit Certificates will then be issued in multiples of 500 parks

ZLP/xx-#### Parks can be logged into the ontheair.nz website and this will be used to check logs submitted for Award Certificates.

# Islands



## ZLOTA

### C. Islands - [ZLI/XX-###]

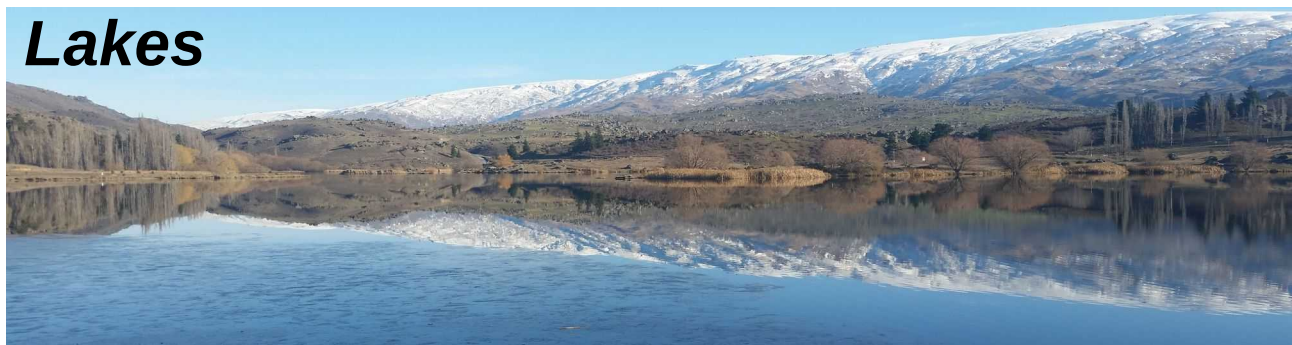
1. A **single** contact from an island is required to *activate* an island for ZLOTA
2. **Five** contacts from an island are required to *qualify* an activation for the NZART minor islands award
3. The *activation zone* is: on the ground of; within the inter-tidal zone of; or on a craft tied to a mooring, wharf, jetty, or anchorage adjacent to the island. For islands linked to the mainland at low tide, the island's intertidal zone can be considered to start at the half-way point between the mainland and island high-tide mark.
4. All islands listed in the LINZ 'NZ Gazetteer' qualify for the ZLOTA Islands awards.
5. *Only salt-water islands, not connected to the mainland by land at low tide count towards the NZART minor islands award.*

## NZART

The Minor Islands Award is awarded for contacts with or from minor islands off the New Zealand coast. For example, Kapiti Island, Portland Island, Great Barrier Island, Little Barrier Island, Waiheke Island, D'Urville Island, Rangitoto Island, Kawau Island, and Motutapu Island. *There are currently 141 islands on the list. Other minor islands may be acceptable at the Award Manager's discretion\*.*

1. Contact with 5 different islands is required. Endorsements for ten, twenty, or thirty islands.
2. Stations operating from minor islands must work a minimum of 5 New Zealand stations from 5 different islands. 25 contacts in total. Endorsements for operating from ten, twenty, or thirty islands.
3. *Islands which are connected to the mainland by a causeway and rocks covered by water at high tide are not eligible. Islands in rivers or lakes are not eligible.*
4. The 'island' station must be located on the island, or on a boat tied to a mooring, wharf, jetty, or anchorage adjacent to the island.
5. The award is for working stations located on or nearby the small islands around the New Zealand coastline, including islands in harbours, sounds and fiords. The list includes Stewart Island but excludes ZL0, ZL8, ZL9 and other islands that have their own DXCC identifier

\* This award is pending updates at NZART, including the proposed deletion of Rule #3 to make the two awards compatible. The awards manager has stated that in the interim, 'any island valid on ZLOTA will be accepted for the NZART award'.



In 2020 a group of four amateurs proposed the ZL Lakeside award programme as a more leisurely, accessible pursuit than SOTA.

A number of potential sources of data on lakes were considered, but the most reliable and consistent was found to be the NZ Gazetteer (formerly NZGDB / 'official placenames database'). When you hear of a peak being officially named after a famous person, or the name of a town being changed to reflect the correct Maori spelling, it is the official NZ Gazetteer that is being updated.

There are currently 1163 lakes listed in the NZ Gazetteer, and thus included in the ZLOTA / NZART Lakeside awards. We pull updates from the NZ Gazetteer from time-to-time. If you find a lake that you believe should be included, check first if it is the Gazetteer – if it's not there, then we cannot include it in the Lakeside award.

To make access realistic, you can activate a lake from anywhere within 500m of the lake shore. The extent of this 500m AZ is shown in yellow on the ontheair.nz map when you view the lake's page.

Just two contacts are required (but if the lake lies within a park, why not try for at least 4 to qualify the park too?)

## **ZLOTA Rules**

### ***D. Lakes - [ZLL/####]***

1. **Two** contacts from a lake are required to *qualify* the activation of a lake.
2. The *activation zone* is the lake surface, the full extent of any islands contained by the lake, or within **500m** of the lakeshore
3. All lakes listed in the LINZ NZ Gazetteer qualify for the ZLOTA Lakes awards.
4. All lakes listed in the LINZ NZ Gazetteer qualify for the NZART Lakes awards.

## **NZART Rules**

### **NZLA – New Zealand Lakeside Award**

The New Zealand Lakeside Award is designed to promote operation from New Zealand's scenic freshwater lakes and to stimulate mobile and portable operation. Estuaries and inlets are not counted as lakes. The award is open to all amateur radio operators.

### **General Rules**

- Contacts can be made on any band or mode, but not via repeaters or the Internet. Satellite contacts are valid for this award.
- The LOG must contain the date, band, mode, station worked, and LINZ lake number (or name) for each QSO.
- Endorsements are available for all contacts being achieved on a single band, or mode, or for satellites.

### **Rules for Hunters**

- For the Basic Hunter Award, contacts are required with stations operating from 10 unique freshwater lakes in New Zealand. There are currently 1184 lakes on the list (which is based on a LINZ list). Download from the NZART website.



- Hunter endorsements are available for each additional group of 10 lakes.
- A Hunter Honour Award is available for contacts with 50 or more lakes.
- Activating Stations must be located within 500m of the lake shore.

#### **Rules for Activators**

- The Basic Activator Award is awarded for 10 unique lake activations. A minimum of 2 contacts is required to qualify as an activation.
- You can only activate one lake at a time, and you can't go back to it once you move on to the next one. Activating Stations must be located within 500m of the lake shore.
- An Activator must supply each contact with at a minimum the lake number or the name of the lake.
- Activator endorsements are available for each additional unique 10 lakes activated.
- An Activator Honour Award is awarded for 50 unique activations.
- Full rules are on the NZLA Log Sheet which is available from the Award Manager.



## ZLOTA

### *E. Beacons and Lighthouses - [ZLB/XX-###]*

1. **Four** contacts from a maritime beacon or lighthouse is required to *qualify* the activation of that beacon or lighthouse
2. The *activation zone* for beacons/lighthouses is defined as either: within sight of the lighthouse; or where not in sight, within a specified distance from the lighthouse which varies from 1-70km depending on the remoteness of the light (where the specified distance has been chosen to include the nearest public road). See the individual beacon/lighthouse page for details of the individual activation zone for that light.
3. All lighthouses shown on LINZ topo50 maps and either named on the map, or listed by Maritime NZ are valid for the ZLOTA lighthouse award
4. All listed beacons and lighthouses qualify for the NZART *Coastal Lights* award
5. A specified subset of these beacons and lighthouses qualify for the NZART *Guiding Lights* award. Check the NZART Awards page or the individual lighthouse pages here to see which qualify

## NZART:

1. Lights as listed on [ontheair.nz](http://ontheair.nz)
2. Activation must be within the AZ radius. The AZ of the lights in general is to be with-in sight of the light being activated. However some are very remote and these can be activated from the nearest road. These AZ are shown on the [ontheair.nz](http://ontheair.nz) website.
3. Any Band, Mode.
4. No Repeater or Internet use.
5. One (1) Point is allocated per light.
6. Lights logged from 1st November 1998 or later.
7. Four (4) contacts to activate Light. Chasers require only one (1).

# Volcanos



## ZLOTA

### *F. Volcanos*

1. **Four** contacts from a volcano or volcanic feature are required to qualify the activation of that volcano
2. The activation zone for volcanos is defined as within a specified distance from the feature, usually 800m but sometimes larger - where the specified distance has been chosen to include the nearest public road, track or park. See the individual volcano page for details of the activation zone for that volcano.
3. To be included in the scheme a volcano must be: a) publicly accessible; b) a visible feature on the ground that can be seen from publicly accessible land in the activation zone; c) associated with a known, documented volcanic field shown in the NZ geological survey (GNS QMap); d) described in a reputable publication such as an academic journal / book / thesis, encyclopedia, or government publication / study
4. The NZ VOTA award scheme is administered by ZL1PSH. Please contact him for details of awards.

*Addition of new volcanos can be requested by submitting the above information to the admin of this site. Please notify admin of any volcanos currently included that do not meet the above criteria.*

## **NZART:**

There is currently no NZART volcano award

# SOTA



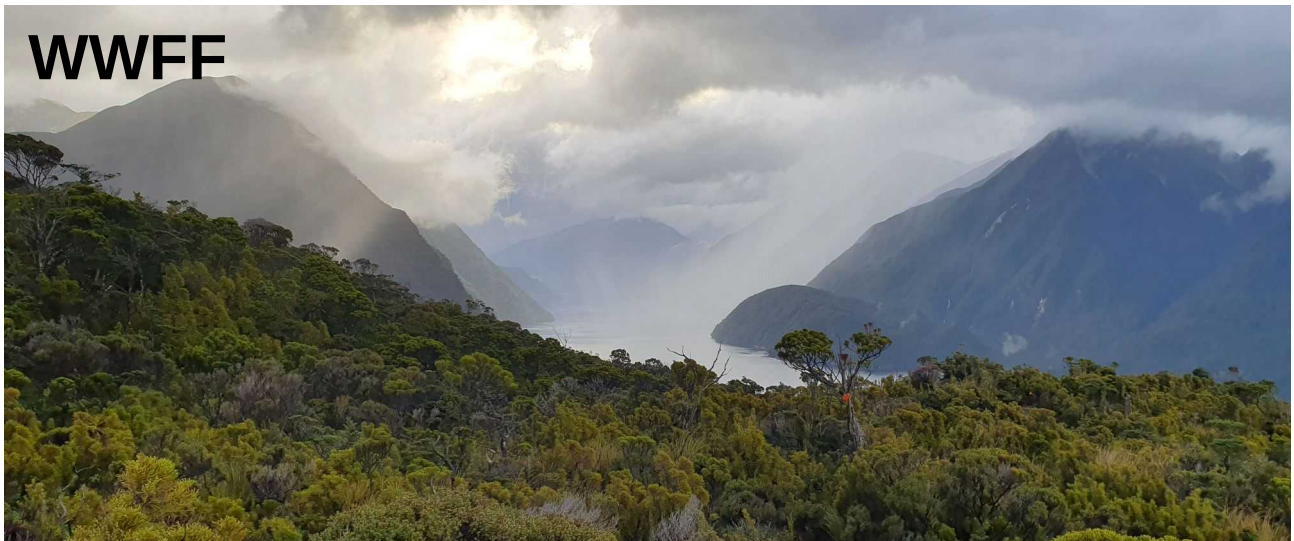
***Rules***

***Logging***

**POTA**

***Rules***

***Logging***



***Rules***

***Logging***



How do you define a summit, when at the right scale, the top of every grain of sand could be viewed as having it's own peak?

Well – SOTA have a requirement that all summits must be a Maralyn to be included in their scheme. And to be a Maralyn, the summit must have a prominence of 150m or more. **Prominence** is the elevation difference between the summit and the highest col (saddle) which connects it to another higher peak.

Another classification of peak is also common amongst peak-baggers around the world: the Hump. A Hump is a peak that stands 100m or more above the highest col (saddle) which connects it to another higher peak. Thus is born the HEMA scheme: **Humps Excluding Maralyns**. That is **all peaks that have  $\geq 100\text{m}$  and  $< 150\text{m}$  of prominence** – or to put it another way, all Humps not already included in the SOTA scheme.

HEMA was introduced to New Zealand to provide an enlarged choice of summits, particularly summits close to the main population centres, than the SOTA scheme alone. A wider choice of summits, and fewer kilometers of driving to reach them – that sounded like a win!

HEMA is being rolled out across New Zealand as LINZ complete aerial LiDAR surveys of each region, giving high accuracy elevation data. At this stage, all the mainland except for Fiordland, Manawatu-Whanganui and parts of Otago are included. Other areas will be added as data becomes available. There are currently around 3500 HEMA summits in New Zealand.

To activate a HEMA summit you must be within 25 vertical meters of the summit, and not have any dip or saddle lower than that 25m between you and it. Only the operator needs to be within the AZ – antennas can stretch beyond. As with SOTA you are not permitted to operate from your vehicle, or powered by it. As with SOTA you must make a minimum of four contacts from the summit. Unlike many schemes, multiple contacts with the same operator on different bands, or using different calls do not count. The use of internet-connected SDRs is not permitted.

Unlike SOTA there is no point system based on elevation. You get 1 point per activation and 1 point per chase, irrespective of the summit elevation.

Both activators and chasers must submit logs to the official HEMA website (<http://hrma.org.uk>) to claim HEMA points. This can be done through the ontheair website (see **HEMA Logs** under your callsign, top-right).

HEMA summits also qualify for the ZLOTA 'Kilometers High' award, so in addition to your one HEMA point, you will earn the summit elevation (in kilometers) towards that ZLOTA award.



# Rules

See <http://hema.org.uk/rulesWebsite.jsp> for the latest version

## General Rules

1. First and foremost these rules are not meant to be exhaustive. Other programmes can be overburdened with endless rules and we hope basing this one on honesty and the "spirit" of amateur radio that it will be easier for all.
2. These rules are written up 12th April 2018 and supplant any previous version. Activations/Chases which were valid based upon older rules are still valid in the database but activity subsequent to the new rules date must abide by this revision. i.e. old points won't be taken away because they were valid at the time but aren't now under any new rules.
3. The HEMA programme is available only to licensed radio amateurs who must solely use such frequencies, power levels and modes as are permitted by their licences.
4. Contacts via any "relay" (satellites, repeaters, the Internet, Echolink etc...) are not permitted.
5. The summits used in these Awards must be HEM summits as defined in the HEMA programme. HEMA is expanding all the time and it's understood the list of summits will increase as we add new DXCCs to the programme.
6. Contacts can take place using any callsign you are allowed to use. For example, you may use a club callsign as long as you subsequently submit to the database using your own account and specify the callsign used.
7. Participation in the HEMA Scheme is on the condition that any activating or chasing is undertaken entirely at the activators or chasers own risk.
8. ALL Award claims are checked and the Awards Manager must, to his satisfaction, be able to verify that the claimed contacts took place.

## For Activators

9. Activations must take place within the Activation Zone (AZ).
10. The summit is considered to have been "activated" and relevant points earned (but see 11 below), when four "successful QSOs" are obtained. The four QSOs must be with different stations and operators. This is a noteworthy revision from previous versions of the rules - where four different callsigns were valid. This will stop multiple "contacts" with the same operator holding many callsigns which, it's believed, is contradictory to the spirit of the programme.
11. Only your first activation of a summit will qualify for a point in the Uniques Table. However, you may repeat your activation of a summit once per calendar year and this will attract a point in the "Qualified" Table. Whilst you might be at liberty to operate from HEMA summits as often as you wish, only those activations that meet the above rules can qualify for points. Awards are available for both Uniques and Qualifying points. Please see the "awards" section for further details.
12. HEMA is a mixture of outdoor pursuit and amateur radio. To this end it's expected the equipment and operator arrive at the operating position by traditional means (walking, cycling, etc...) and the equipment is powered by a portable energy source (battery, solar panel etc...). The "spirit" of the programme here is key. For example, operating from a vehicle or ascending by quad bike is not permitted as a result.
13. Contacts between two or more stations within the AZ on the same summit are not permitted even if that summit is assigned two different references (e.g. on a border between countries).
14. Right of access to summits listed in HEMA must not be assumed. If needed, permission to operate from a summit or to access land must be obtained. (Please see our guidance note on this matter)



15. Activators should always follow whatever guidance exists in the Association in respect of good conduct - e.g the Countryside Code in the UK. As a hobby, amateur radio is regarded with a good level of respect by the wider community. It should be the intention of the activator to uphold this reputation.

### **For Chasers**

16. A valid "chase" occurs when the chaser has one "Successful QSO" with an activator.

17. Only your first chase of a summit will qualify for a point in the Uniques Table. However, you may repeat your chase and accrue chaser points of the same summit once per day and this will attract a point in the Qualified Points Table. Awards are available for both Uniques and Qualifying points. Please see the "awards" section for further details.

\* Activators with disabilities who require the use of a motorised device to reach the summit should contact the administrator for advice. Our intention is always to be as inclusive as possible.

## ***Logging***

**TODO**

## Other information

### Common SSB Frequencies

There is no 'official' allocation of frequencies for the ZLOTA scheme, and of course – 'no-one owns a frequency' in amateur radio. But the following table shows commonly used centre-of-activity frequencies, with operators spreading out on either side when things are busy.

Band	SOTA Frequency	ZLOTA Frequency	VK Parks frequency
80m	3.585	3.690*	3.644
60m		5.363**	
40m	7.090	7.085	7.144
20m	14.310	14.310	14.144 / 14.244
15m	21.300	21.300	21.144 / 21.244
10m	28.480	21.3-21.6	
2m	146.500	146.500	

\* Note that this is the designated QRP calling frequency and so non-QRP operation may be frowned upon.

\*\* USB. Note that power limits apply – see your license.

### SOTAmat Spotting

SOTAmat does not support ZLOTA internally, and as such this is way fiddlier than SOTA or POTA spotting from SOTAmat. But it can be done as follows.

In the SOTAmat webpage:

- go to HF Preparation -> Messaging Commands
- + New Entry

Enter something like:

Command: email

Target: [spot@ontheair.nz](mailto:spot@ontheair.nz)

Content: /bom ZL4NVW 1234 ! ZLL/0003 7.090 SSB Calling CQ now. /eom

Notes: ZLL/0003 7.090

where:

- [spot@ontheair.nz](mailto:spot@ontheair.nz) is the spotting gateway address at ontheair.nz
- ZL4NVW is your callsign
- 1234 is your ontheair PIN
- ZLL/0003 is the lake, hut, island, lighthouse, park, (or even WWFF park) you are activating
- /bom and /eom mark the beginning and end of the spot message. They are required as SOTAmat adds all sorts of junk to the start / end of the email it sends.
- Notes is what shows up in the SOTAmat app when you select from your list of predefined messages

Then sync your SOTAmat app with the server to pick up the new message  
(Setup -> Load config from server)

==

In the field:

You can then select 'message' from the bottom line of the SOTAmat app, and select the message you defined above. Click on Play FT8 Audio to send the ZLOTA spot via FT8. I just hold the mic against the phone speaker and watch the ALC does not trigger on the radio (having turned off audio compression first). Seems to work ok.

I've tried this via both my own always-on SOTAmat-connected FT8 monitor on 7.074 (instant) and via VK5HW and PSKreporter on 14.074 (up to 5 minute delay).

Be aware that if you do this, your ontheair PIN will be logged at the SOTAmat website. So do not use any PIN for ontheair that you use to protect anything else if you try this!

## **Inreach Spotting / Alerting**

## **Confirming chasers vs activator contacts**

# Legal access in New Zealand

ontheair.nz - lists all geographical features in each class in New Zealand. The list is not restricted to those that are on Crown-owned land or have a right of public access. Places listed at on the air include many that are:

- On private land with no access rights
- On private land accessible by easements, covenants or legal walkways
- Commercial forests subject to Public Access Easements (PAE's) along forestry roads
- On crown land with a right of public access
- On crown land subject to access restrictions for reasons of conservation (e.g. Takehe protected area)
- On islands that have restriction on landings
- On areas that are closed due to safety (e.g. active volcanic sites)
- In areas subject to rahui
- Tapu sites of significance to their traditional owners

It is **always** the operator's responsibility to ensure that they have a right of / permission for access prior to visiting a site. It is the operators responsibility to ensure that radio operations from that site are in compliance with their license regulations and conditions.

## Indications of public access shown on this site

For each place listed on ontheair we give an indication of whether the activation zone includes land with public access or not. Where this site indicates 'Yes' there is public access this means:

- We have found land with a right of public access *somewhere in the activation zone*. This does not mean that the actual lakeshore or the actual summit has public access.
- The specific type of public access land will be shown (formed road, legal road, DOC walkway, DOC / council park or reserve)
- We *do not* verify whether there is continuous public access from the nearest road to the activation zone. Where we indicate that public access land exists in the AZ, it may be isolated from roads by private land and only accessible by air or boat without neighbouring landowner permission.
- We do not verify that there is practical access through the public access land. Bluffs, rivers, swamps may mean that access, though legally allowed, is impractical.

## Classes of public access land

The following is a collection of online resources about access to various classes of land in New Zealand, along with my summaries of their contents. Note that my summary does not constitute legal advice. The Walking Access Commission is a good place to start for information and advice.

<https://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz/>

## Conservation land

Public Conservation Land (PCL) in NZ comes with a default right of public access. Public Conservation Land is shown in green on the Walking Access Commission's maps.

Note, however, there are situations in which the conservation act or national parks acts allow access to be restricted. Offshore islands, breeding sites, and areas of active vulcanism are examples.

DOC can also administratively 'close' a facility if they believe it is not up to their standards. Such closures indicate that the facility is not fit for purpose, but do not remove the right of public access to the area.

DOC currently allow amateur radio activity on DOC land by default - i.e. radio operation is permitted except where it is explicitly prohibited. Note however, that other activities related to an amateur radio activity (e.g. erection of temporary structures, overnight camping) may be restricted.

<https://doc.govt.nz>

**Private land:**

Whilst there is no 'right to access' over private land in NZ, the law (trespass act 1980) does not prohibit access unless you fail to leave when asked. This situation creates a lack of clarity and expectations about access that can lead to confusion and conflict.

<https://communitylaw.org.nz/community-law-manual/not-rated/trespassing/>

<https://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz/knowledge/access/do-i-have-the-right-to-walk-over-private-land-to-get-to-public-land/>

When considering access over private land - note that:

- There are legislated locations where access permission is a legal requirement under other acts (e.g plantation forestry, ports, etc).
- Most landowners will not be happy about accessing their land without permission irrespective of what the trespass law actually says or doesn't say
- Any access implied by the trespass act may not translate into a right to operate an amateur radio station
- Farms have critical times of year when disturbance to stock or farming operations can have massive impacts and costs to the landowner. Unless you ask, you may not be aware of these until it is too late.

**Easements, agreements, walkways and covenants**

There are many situations in which public access has been provided across private land. But these are often buried in easements and covenants on the property title and not published elsewhere. DOC and WAMS can give advice on some of these but do not know of all public access easements and covenants.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/map/index.html>

<http://wams.org.nz/>

For former pastoral leases that have completed tenure review the 'full substantive proposal' signed by LINZ and the leasee will list access easements and covenants over the resulting freehold land.

<https://www.linz.govt.nz/crown-property/crown-pastoral-land/status-and-location-crown-pastoral-land>

For other private land the only definitive way to determine access rights is by requesting the title from LINZ, which is subject to a fee.

<https://lrs.linz.govt.nz/search/>

**Forestry Public Access Easements (PAEs)**

When crown-owned NZFS production forests were privatised in the '90s, existing rights of public access that existed along many of the roads within the forests were preserved as Public Access Easements (PAEs). These easements are recorded in the license issued to the forestry company, and not in the land-title register. Unlike normal access easements across private land, which are guaranteed, PAEs may be 'temporarily closed' at the discretion of the forestry owner for 'operational purposes' or 'safety'. This means that they are very unreliable forms of ongoing access. There are cases (e.g. Lower Windley Hut access) where they have been suspended indefinitely - which may or may not be legally valid.

Walking Access have added a PAE layer to their maps - it is unclear at this time how complete the data in that layer is. At the time of writing (2025-01-01) it included just 157 easements, and was missing many that are referenced elsewhere (DOC, Te Araroa trust).

<https://www.herengaanuku.govt.nz/types-of-access/public-access-easements>

**Unformed legal roads:**

Legal roads are owned by the crown, not by the neighbouring landowner. The existence of a legal (unformed) road may not be visible on the ground or acknowledged by the neighbour. It is your responsibility to ensure that you remain within the bounds of that road. If you find access to a legal road blocked by barriers or stock, a complaint to the territorial authority is the appropriate step. Legal roads are shown in purple on the Walking Access Commission's maps.

<https://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz/knowledge/access/unformed-legal-roads/>

<https://fmc.org.nz/campaigns/same-as-sh1/>

### **Marginal strips and riverbeds**

Marginal strips (Queen's chain) run along the banks of many rivers and lakes in NZ, but not all. Even where they are present they may not be continuous and may not accurately follow the current course of the waterway. Some are 'movable marginal strips' which change as the river course changes, others are fixed and may be nowhere near the current riverbed.

Most marginal strips are crown-owned public conservation land (DOC-managed) and come with a right of public access (that is their purpose). They are 11m or 22m wide and start from the edge of the legal riverbed. Older marginal strips are legal roads, managed by LINZ. Marginal strips are shown on the walking access commission's maps as either purple (roads) or green (conservation land). Note that it is your responsibility to ensure that you remain within the limits of the marginal strip and that access may not always be physically practical. A GPS with the boundaries on it can be a big help.

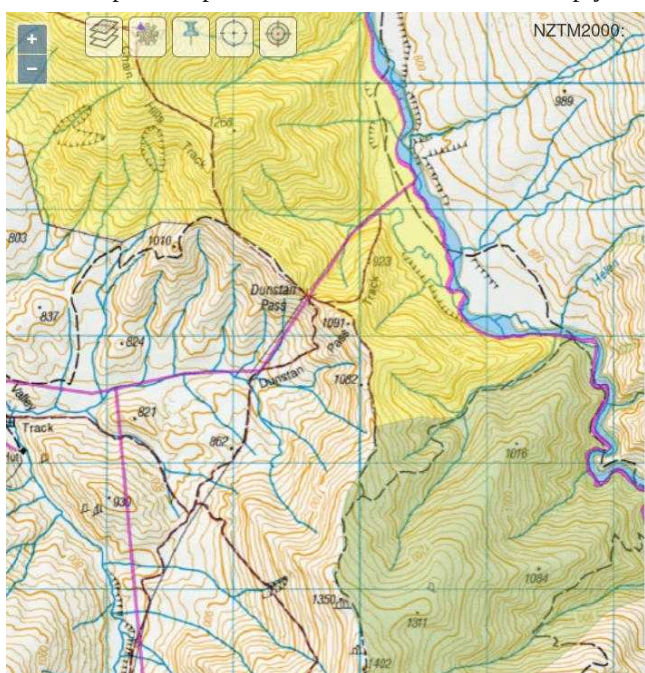
<https://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz/knowledge/rivers-lakes-and-coast/what-is-a-marginal-strip/>

The crown owns the beds of most major rivers in NZ, often including dry beds and channels. These are shown as blue 'hydro' areas on the Walking Access Commission's maps. This land is managed by LINZ, not DOC. Where a riverbed is bordered by private land LINZ **may** agree for its use (to the centre-line) by the neighbouring landowner - in this case there is no right of public access. Where the riverbed is bordered by public conservation land (e.g. marginal strip) or a legal road then DOC/LINZ are the neighbouring landowner and access will be allowed to the centre-line.

<https://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz/knowledge/rivers-lakes-and-coast/access-along-rivers-lakes-and-the-coast/#9>

### **How do I tell what class land / a track falls in to?**

The walking access commission provides maps of 'public access land', indicating where there is a right of public access. These maps are reproduced here on [ontheair.nz](http://ontheair.nz) - simply select the 'Public access land' layer from the map layers menu.



The following colouring is used:

- **Dark green:** DOC-administered public conservation land
- **Light green:** district council administered reserve
- **Pink:** Crown owned 'legal road' - land owned by the crown for the purpose of a roadway. May or may not have been constructed.
- **Red dashed** - Walkway vested in DOC with a right of public walking access - generally extending 10m either side of the centreline.
- **Red solid** - Road vested in DOC with a right of public vehicular and walking access - generally extending 10m either side of the centreline.
- **Blue** (only shown zoomed in) - LINZ-administered crown-owned riverbed.
- **Yellow** (only shown when zoomed in) - Privately owned land subject to a conservation covenant held by DOC. Some (but not all) include a right of public access.

All other land / tracks are private and access is either by permission or under the goodwill of the landholder.