

66 Tips for 6

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- Learn CW
- Anything is possible on Six metres
- Maximum distances are worked from every location some time every cycle
- Listen a lot, transmit a little
- Use a CW filter or narrow band for phone
- Avoid 50.110 for everything but DX that is determined to work you there
- Never rag chew on the call frequency, if called there qsy next over
- QSY at LEAST 50 to 100 KHz up the band for SSB, there is plenty of space above 50.15 for casual contacts
- Study the lists of worldwide indicators published on the Internet as a guide to propagation in your area
- Every location is different, be content with your results, not what someone else may have worked
- Choose a transceiver with a good noise blanker
- Minimise noise of all kinds as much as possible
- Fax machines are notorious sources of noise
- Cover all the pc's possible with toroids on each lead
- Use quality headphones for every session
- Connect only with N style connectors
- Low loss coax at of 16 to 20mm outside diameter
- Seal all connections with bitumen seal to exclude water
- Be utterly familiar with your transceiver
- Use a low noise [modest gain 8dB] pre-amp in the receive line as close as possible to the antenna
- Use computer analysis [K6STI's YO is a good start] to optimise the yagi antenna
- Peak a maximum gain antenna for 50.110
- Use a fast reliable rotator
- Select a high front to back ratio to exclude noise and QRM
- Get that antenna as high as possible
- Work DX when the band is open, even if you have worked Japan or Mexico before, there is a strong likelihood that many operators at the other end will need your prefix or country for a new one
- Remember we all had to start somewhere, one DXCC, grid, whatever is your fancy
- Record every qso either on a quality tape deck or digitally
- Incorporate a silence relay to stop the tape when transmitting for a clean recording
- QSL everybody who wants one promptly
- Send your wanted qsl's within several days of the qso, strike whilst the iron is hot usually results in confirming that contact
- Make sure your envelope contains return postage
- Will the return envelope be large enough to hold an average QSL card
- Always use self seal envelopes, active DX stations and QSL managers hate sealing hundreds of envelopes with tape or glue
- Is the return envelope Air Mail marked? some postal systems do not automatically use Air for return post

- Ignore bad childish behaviour on the band, tune away and call CQ just to show them what they are missing by landing some rare DX
- Regularly check that your transmission is going where you want by having a clean signal
- Look for the in obvious paths for propagation
- Just because it hasn't happened on a particular path doesn't mean it won't
- There is many more paths, modes and countries waiting to be a Six Metre first for someone
- Watch for unusual indicators in the 30 to 50MHz sub band then listen/call
- Simplify your logging with a computer log book as you QSO
- Have the PC online during the peak windows watching the various logging sites
- Share your results with a quick post
- After the opening submit the log extract to an email system or place it online to help others understand the openings
- Be patient [very]
- White noise isn't so bad, especially when it's interrupted with someone from the other side of the world
- Let others have the frequency as soon as possible
- Keep your qso's brief
- Don't exchange more than needed to validate the qso, grids can be read on the web or qsl card
- Use standard phonetics
- Slow and steady morse around 20 words per minute with plenty of word space works best
- Contesting is an excellent method to practice DX qso'ing technique
- Be prepared for strange callsigns during openings, contesting is a way to have an open mind for prefixes that are totally different from the ones in across town qso's
- Equinoxes provide [F2, TEP and combinations with E's] the majority of propagation on Six
- Solstice propagation [mostly via Sporadic E] has powerful potential to give rewards
- Help DX'ers with whatever they want, no station out on the island means no qso!
- Donate old gear, any sort can put another country on the air
- It's only a hobby
- Remember your family, friends and work come first
- Tune the band frequently during openings and well away from the call frequency, many people never operate near there due to QRM
- Have a second rig or receiver scanning on an MUF or omni antenna
- Set one rig's antenna to scan in the opposite direction to the other looking for openings
- Scan all indicators in one mode to gain an idea of their strength and relevance to openings
- Set the scan frequencies in a descending order in memory channels, like a spectrum sweep to predict the MUF
- Have FUN!