

Great photography, shame about the HF

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Last Wednesday (21/2/07) Vk2FSJE and I had planned a bit of a field portable radio evening. We had not been field portable for a while, especially on HF. So we thought that we should head up to our favourite Mt Ovens spot, setup our HF antenna and equipment, partake in the HADARC 80m net for the night, and then generally have a play with HF.

The night did not start how we wanted...

Running a little late we headed up to Mt Ovens, setup our mast, antenna, radio etc. We were going to be a bit late for the 80m net, we could also see a bit of a storm brewing a long way to the south of us and we knew it was going to effect HF. We decided to continue. When connecting up the power to the radio a fuse blew. Not good I was thinking to myself, really wondering why it blew as fuses usually do blow for a reason. Anyway, radio play was not going to happen as I did not have any spare fuses with me :((I have since swapped over the fuse and tested the radio - luckily all seems fine)

So down came everything, and packed back into the car.

By the time we had packed up everything the storm to the south had come a little closer and was really starting to brew. It was time to go and watch the storm. We headed over from Stony Point trig to the actual Mt Ovens trig point to watch the lightning to the south. Some spectacular bolts of lightning lit up the sky. It was truly amazing. We sat there watching the storm and eating our dinner which we had sort of forgotten about and let go cold. We were there about an hour before deciding to head back home, grab the camera and then try for some shots of the lightning from Mt Panorama.

Below are our efforts

For those that are curious... 40mm F/4 ISO-100 with 26 second exposure

40mm F/4 ISO-100 with 16 second exposure

40mm F/4 ISO-100 with 43 second exposure (this pic has been slightly cropped to make it a bit more dramatic :))

