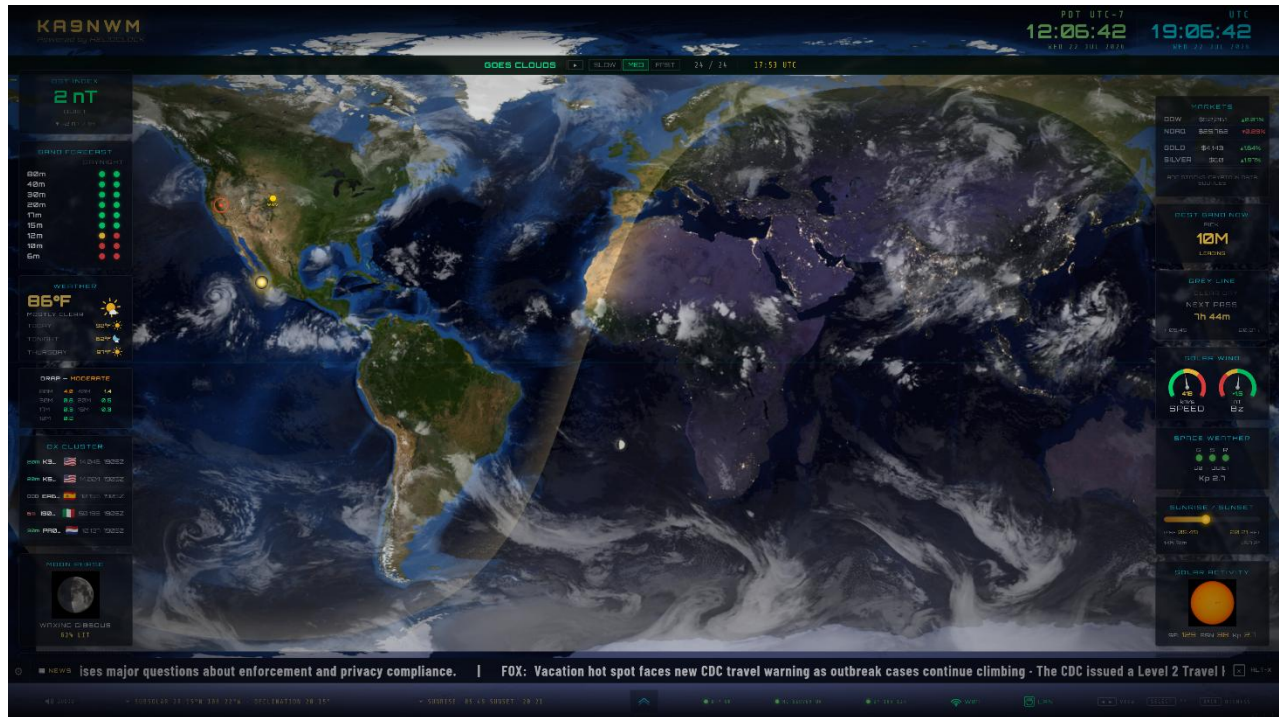


Helioclock to Debut at Huntsville Hamfest: A New All-in-One Next Generation Situational Awareness Display for the Ham Shack



Reno, NV. July 27, 2026. Helioclock, a new dedicated live dashboard appliance built for amateur radio operators, EOC's NOC's Civil Defense and others will make its public debut at the ARRL National convention/Huntsville Hamfest, August 22–23, 2026. The product brings live HF band conditions, space weather, contest information, and a wide range of real-time situational data feeds together on a single always-on screen: no juggling browser tabs, no subscription required. Fully automated operation 24/7/365 designed explicitly to have no single point of failure risk.

A Stunning Shack Display Built Around Real Time Data, Not Guesswork

The centerpiece is Helioclock's signature “Best Band Now” feature. Rather than reducing complex propagation data down to a single “best guess,” Helioclock now presents every open or marginal HF band on a live, continuously ranked leaderboard, similar to a golf leaderboard, so operators can see exactly how each band stacks up and why.

Each band's score is intelligently analyzed from real DX cluster and Reverse Beacon Network spot activity, weighted by frequency and available headroom below the Maximum Usable Frequency, so a band with genuinely strong evidence can never be quietly outranked by a band with only a handful of spots. A band must hold the #1 ranking continuously for 20 minutes before it's marked CONFIRMED; until then it displays LEADING with a live countdown, so operators can watch a band call developing in real time rather than reacting to a single flip. The whole model was validated against a data log of

more than 4,000 band-decision records before release. An optional Software Defined Radio (SDR) can be added to actually measure received beacons at your QTH for even better accuracy.

Plus, a per-band “Band Scope” graph shows the last 60 minutes of activity for every band at a glance, and every column on the leaderboard with plain-language explaining exactly what it means and how it's calculated. Full transparency, nothing hidden behind a black-box verdict.

More Than DX and Propagation

Beyond Best Band Now, Helioclock's next generation screen brings together:

- Stunning photorealistic maps of the world and CONUS that change with seasons.
- Live contest calendar and DX information. Grey line, solar flux, and imagery.
- Wildfire, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, air quality, live camera site feeds, news and weather bulletin feeds. Configurable with local alerts too.
- Live NEXRAD Radar, Satellite imagery, forecasts, data tracks, and more.
- Financial markets (major indices, favorite stocks, plus gold and silver).
- Tides for coastal stations, sea surface temperature, and hurricane/tropical storm tracking.
- Over 40 active live features can be arranged on-screen and displayed on a multiple screen slideshow so you never miss a beat. See the features and comparison table at helioclock.com.
- PTT/ON-AIR banner, code practice, electronic references, even TV test patterns for SSTV!
- Supports optional Software Defined Radio (SDR) using the popular RTL-SDR USB devices for automated band testing or use as your own listening receiver with on-screen control.
- All of it updates continuously in the background, giving operators one glanceable display for “what's happening right now” on the bands and around them. Helioclock can drive multiple big screen TV's at 4K or 2K directly while at the same time supporting remote browser connections.

Flexible, Low-Cost Hardware

Helioclock is designed to run on whatever hardware a ham shack already has or wants to add cheaply:

- A dedicated small-form-factor x86 mini PC (Intel N100 at 4GB class hardware or better)
- Raspberry Pi model 4 and 5 (2GB minimum, 4GB recommended.)
- A bootable Live USB stick that turns most existing spare PC's/laptops built in the last decade into a Helioclock display without touching its installed OS.
- Ready to run appliances are also available.

See It in Huntsville

Helioclock will be shown live at the Huntsville Hamfest, August 22–23, 2026, at booth #V55. Attendees can see Best Band Now running against live band conditions in real time and talk with the developer that built it. Ready to run systems, SD cards and Live USB devices will be available for purchase at the show.

“Helioclock was built because every operator I know has five browser tabs open just to answer one question: what band should I be on right now? This puts the real evidence in front of you instead of a black-box guess.” “Plus, I wanted a modern, polished, real-time display that gives a solid next generation modern look and feel that runs completely unattended.”

— Anthony Watts, KA9NWM, creator, Helioclock

Availability

More information, screenshots, features, and a live interactive demo are available at helioclock.com.

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About Helioclock

Most ham radio dashboards are built by hams, for hams: which is exactly why they look and behave the way they do. Helioclock started somewhere else: with a 40-year background from the developer in **broadcast meteorology and broadcast systems design**, not just amateur radio experience. That legacy adds graphical style, performance, and “it can’t fail while on-air” reliability.