

Feedhunter Rini



What you see in your local evening news broadcast has to first find its way from the event location to the TV station's studio. This path typically involves the use of a satellite to get it from one point to another. This type of transmission is referred to as a feed and there are those that have made finding these satellite feeds their hobby. One of those happens to be Rini de Weijze who calls himself Feedhunter Rini, a name he uses to a number of different Internet satellite forums. How do you end up being a feedhunter? We asked Feedhunter Rini that very same question.

Feedhunter Rini has lived in his present home in northern Holland for 33 years. He was a bank manager but is now retired and can therefore spend more time playing with his hobby.

We wanted to know how it all started. Rini was kind enough to explain: "When I was 16, I stumbled onto Radio Moscow while listening to the airwaves and was completely surprised to discover that the transmission was in Dutch." This was the start of his interest in listening to the radio that culminated in the reception of shortwave ship transmissions in SSB.

But he became infected with the satellite virus when he one day spotted a satellite dish. Without any hesitation, he asked the owner of that dish what he was receiving with it.

"It was a 90cm antenna that is still hanging in the same spot today. Back then, the owner, Klaas van der Lingen patiently revealed to me everything he was able to receive with his Echostar receiver", explained Rini of that day.

Not too long after that, an 80cm dish from Triax with positioner was hanging on his own exterior house wall.

"My most interesting experience was the pirate transmissions from the Amateur TV club PI6ALK", remembers Rini, "they simply switched the uplink from the Amateur TV satellite OSCAR over to EUTELSAT 16E and started transmitting." Naturally, the Dutch authorities quickly put an end to that, but for Rini it was quite an experience to see how easy these transmissions could find their way onto a satellite.

In 2004 he upgraded to a 90cm antenna and in 2005 he installed a 90x99cm Fibo antenna with sub-reflector that he still uses today.

He dreams of having a real DX station on an open piece of land on which, together with his friend Ron Ebersson, he can erect large dishes. "We can even get a hold of a used 2.4-meter antenna but it's not so easy to find the space for it." We wish him luck in his search!



Feedhunter Rini on the first floor of his home right next to his 90x99cm dish with sub-reflector he uses for his satellite reception. He can receive satellites from 54° east to 45° west.



Reception in his PC is handled by a SkyStar 2 card and the DVBDream software. With the push of a button he makes screenshots that he then uploads to the satellite forums.



Feedhunter Rini at work feedhunting: with his Quad LNB he connects to three receivers and a satellite card in his PC. He uses a FortecStar box with Aston positioner and DiSEqC converter to move his antenna, as well as a Max Plus and a Max Digital receiver. His TV monitor is set to A/V mode for his Max Digital receiver and he uses two UHF channels to receive the signals from the FortecStar or Max Plus boxes. With a homemade video switch he can send the video signal from his two Max receivers to the video card in his PC to get screenshots of different programs he can't receive with the built-in card.

SATELLITE	FROM	TILL	POLARIZATION	NUMBER OF FEEDS	FROM	TILL	POLARIZATION	NUMBER OF FEEDS	FROM	TILL	POLARIZATION	NUMBER OF FEEDS
2 East ASTRA 1C	11200	12750	H+V	<+>7								
3 East TELECOM 2C	12500	12750	V	<+>7								
4 East EUROIRD 4	10950	11400	H	<+>7	12500	12570	H+V	<+>7				
5 East SIRIUS	12140	12750	H+V	<+>7								
7 East EUTELSAT W3	10960	11200	H+V	<+>7	11370	11420			12510	12560	H+V	<7
9 East EUROIRD 9	No Info											
10 East EUTELSAT W1	10950	11200	H+V	<+>7	12520	12745	H+V	<7				
13 East HOTBIRD	10700	12750	H+V	<+>7								
16 East EUTELSAT W2	10960	11200	H+V	<+>7	11680	11700	V	<7	12500	12750	H+V	<+>7
19.2 East ASTRA	10955	12750	H+V	<+>7								
21.5 East EUTELSAT W6	10955	11000	H+V	<7	11010	11700	H+V	<7	12500	12700	H+V	<7
23.5 East ASTRA	11450	11690	H	<7	12620	12710	H+V	<+>7				
26 East ARABSAT 2	11100	11200	H+V	>7	11630	11660	H+V	>7	12520	12740	H+V	<+>7
28.2 East EUROIRD1/ ASTRA	12500	12750	H+V	<+>7	11470	11490	V	<+>7				
30.5 East ARABSAT 2B	12520	12540	H	<7								
33 East EUROIRD 3	10955	11190	H+V	<+>7	11620	11700	H+V	<+>7				
36 East EUTELSAT W4	10955	11700	H+V	<+>7	12640	12660	V	<7				
39 East HELASSAT	10950	11150	V	<7	11450	11700	H	<7	12550	12660	H+V	<7
40 East EXPRESS 1AR	11030	11200	V	<7	11450	11640	H+V	<7				
42 East TURKSAT/EURASIA	10950	11200	H+V	<+>7	11480	11970	V	<7	12510	12750	H+V	<7
45 East EUROSTAR 1	11450	11690	V	<7	12510	12710	H+V	<+>7				
53 East EXPRESS AM22	11080	11700	H+V	<7	12630	12670	H+V	<+>7				
54.8 East INTELSAT 702	11100	11150	V	<7								
57 East NSS 703	11040	11550	V	<7								
1 West INTELSAT/THOR	10980	11200	V	<7	11460	11680	V	<7				
4 West AMOS	11150	11350	H	<+>7	11415	11580	H	<7				
5 West ATLANTICIRD 3	10950	11200	H+V	<+>7	11450	11700	H+V	<+>7	12540	12700	H	<+>7
7 West NILESAT	10700	12750	Div									
8 West ATL.BIRD/TELECOM 2D	12500	12750	H+V	<+>7	11450	11680	H+V	<+>7				
11 West EXPRESS 3A	11480	11700	V	<+>7								
12.5 West ATLANTICIRD	10950	11200	H+V	<7	11325	11700	H+V	<7	12530	12760	H+V	<+>7
15 West TELSTAR 12	11000	11040	V	<7	11450	11700	H+V	<7	12520	12750	H	<+>7
18 West INTELSAT 901	10960	11700	H+V	<+>7								
20 West INTELSAT 603	10940	11700	H	<+>7								
22 West NSS 7	10950	11160	H	<+>7	11465	11700	H	<+>7	12510	12720	H	<+>7
24.5 West INTELSAT 905	11050	11690	V	<+>7								
27.5 West INTELSAT 907	10950	11700	V	<7								
30 West HISPASAT	11460	11680	H+V	<+>7	12035	12180	H+V	<+>7	12535	12750	H+V	<+>7
31.5 West INTELSAT 801	10960	11050	V	<+>7								
34.5 West INTELSAT 903	11120	11700	V	<+>7	10960	11000	V	<7				
37.5 West TELSTAR 11	11500	12750	H+V	<7								
43 West INTELSAT 3R	12500	12750	H+V	<+>7								
45 West INTELSAT 1R	11480	11700	H+V	<7								

This list compiled by Ron Ebersson and Feedhunter Rini and constantly kept up to date by them is the key instrument for looking for new feeds on a daily basis. The list shows satellites which are used for feeds, as well as the frequency ranges, polarisations and average number of feeds. To start with, Feedhunter Rini rotates his dish to the required satellite. Next, he lets his receiver scan only the range between the two frequencies and this way finds the feeds as quickly as possible. On his PC he then makes screenshots and uploads the files to specialist satellite forums such as sat4all.com and dxtv.eu. Other feedhunters therefore can find out within minutes which feeds are currently active. If you like to have a go for yourself you should begin with choosing a satellite that transmits many feeds so that your chances of actually discovering a feed are highest. Bear in mind, though, that feed transmissions often only last for a few minutes. Only rarely are they active for more than an hour – such as when a football match is transmitted, for example.

This is how Feedhunter Rini caught the satellite virus: this small dish attached to Klaas van der Lingen's home first made him aware of satellite reception. He asked the owner what he could receive with it. Klaas himself is an amateur radio enthusiast.

