

Shalom Beijing

Shalom Hahn, that's not really his name, but that's about what it sounds like in Chinese. He finds his name to be very catchy and at the same time very appropriate. Shalom is a satellite installer in Beijing, in a country where private satellite reception is still officially illegal, or risky at the very least. Of course, this makes it all the more interesting for us so we wanted to get a closer look at his business. We met up with him in one of Beijing's more popular sports bars – The Den.

■ Shalom Hahn in his home office in northern Beijing near the 5th Ring Road. He keeps in touch with other satellite enthusiasts in China through the Chinese forum www.sat888.com.



TELE-satellite World [www.TELE-satellite.com/...](http://www.TELE-satellite.com/)

Download this report in other languages from the Internet:

Arabic	العربية	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/ara/shalom.pdf
Indonesia	Indonesia	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/bid/shalom.pdf
Bulgarian	Български	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/bul/shalom.pdf
Czech	Česky	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/ces/shalom.pdf
German	Deutsch	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/deu/shalom.pdf
English	English	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/eng/shalom.pdf
Spanish	Español	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/esp/shalom.pdf
Farsi	فارسی	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/far/shalom.pdf
French	Français	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/fra/shalom.pdf
Greek	Ελληνικά	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/hell/shalom.pdf
Croatian	Hrvatski	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/hrv/shalom.pdf
Italian	Italiano	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/ita/shalom.pdf
Hungarian	Magyar	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/mag/shalom.pdf
Mandarin	中文	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/man/shalom.pdf
Dutch	Nederlands	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/ned/shalom.pdf
Polish	Polski	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/pol/shalom.pdf
Portuguese	Português	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/por/shalom.pdf
Romanian	Românesc	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/rom/shalom.pdf
Russian	Русский	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/rus/shalom.pdf
Swedish	Svenska	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/sve/shalom.pdf
Turkish	Türkçe	www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-0911/tur/shalom.pdf

Available online starting from **2 October 2009**



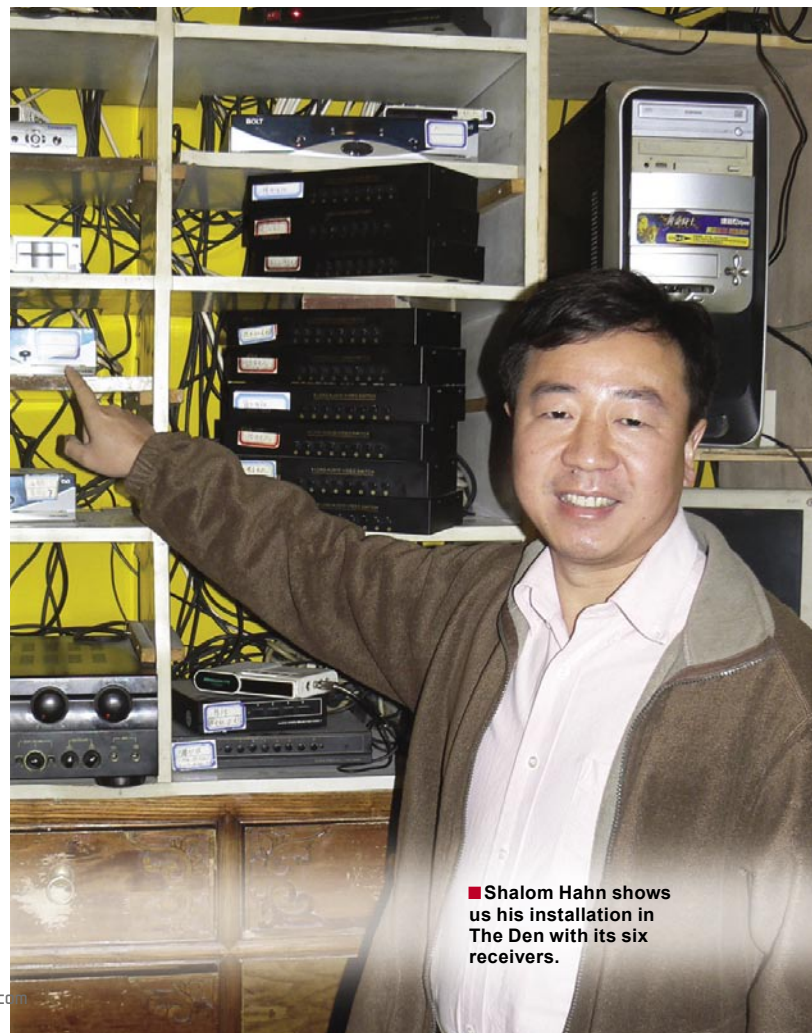
■ Why would a satellite enthusiast want to live on the top floor of a building? Yes, so he could install his satellite antennas on the roof. But since it is sometimes too much trouble for him to always climb up on the roof, Shalom installed a 60cm dish on his window on the 19th floor from which he leans out precariously to align his dish to a different satellite.

The bar is located close to the workers stadium and what first caught our eye was the location of the dish: it was anchored right on the sidewalk in front of the bar – the same sidewalk that the local police pedal by on their bicycles on a daily basis on their way to the police station right behind the bar. The regulations in China can be interpreted in different ways from one day to the next.

■ The police don't seem to be interested in the illegal dishes as they roll past The Den sports bar on their bicycles. Private satellite dishes are officially not allowed in China and especially not out in the open on a public sidewalk!



■ Paul Peng is manager of The Den and somehow managed to get the police to look the other way when they pass the permanently installed 1.8-meter dish on the sidewalk.



■ Shalom Hahn shows us his installation in The Den with its six receivers.



■ Sports programming is constantly running on the flat screen TV's in the bar.

■ This is the Rickshaw bar in Beijing. Shalom Hahn installed four antennas here: a 1.5-meter dish for 166°E, a 2.4-meter dish for 68.5°E, a 1.8-meter dish for 110.5°E and a 60cm antenna with two LNBs for 138°E and 146°E.

For Paul Peng, the manager of The Den, this works in his favor and he admits that this is only a temporary solution: a newly constructed apartment building was built directly in the line of sight to the satellite from the roof of the bar and managed to block reception. Installing the dish on the sidewalk is only a temporary solution until a better location can be found.

The Den is mostly patronized by expatriates who are primarily interested in watching football games from home. For this reason Shalom has installed four antennas, one each for 68.5°E, 138°E, 146°E and 166°E. A total of six receivers are in use. According to Paul Peng, the most watched channels in his bar are "Super Sports 1 and 2, BEN Sports, the Australian sports channel networks and those from Star Sports." Customers can see all the action on eight different flat screen TVs.

How did Shalom actually get his name and how did he become involved in satellite TV? "I saw my first satellite antenna in 1990", remembers Shalom, "When ASIASAT was launched, someone near my university erected an antenna. Back then you couldn't choose your profession and I ended up studying history."

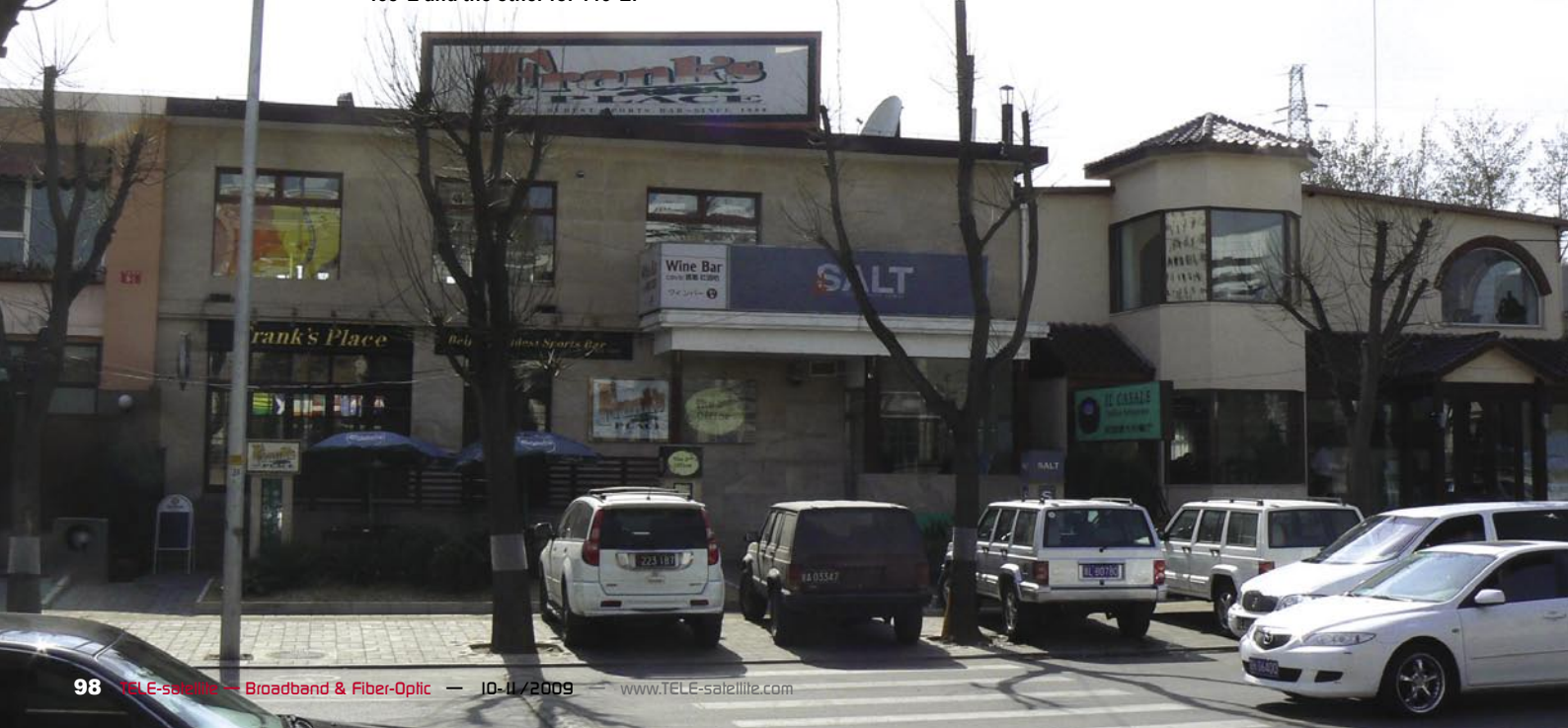
But he already knew at that point that this was not the direction he wanted to go. Alongside his studies he also began





■ Hebe is one of the bartenders in Frank's Place and is seen here standing in front of the shack containing the receivers. A friend in the USA is even providing access to the TSN sports channel via a Slingbox. Frank's claim is really true: "The best coverage of TV sport."

■ Another sports bar: Frank's Place is the oldest sports bar in Beijing and was opened in 1989. Thanks to Shalom, there's also quite an assortment of sports programming available here as well. Shalom elaborates: "On the roof are a 2.4-meter antenna for 68.5°E, a 1.8-meter dish for 166°E as well as two 60cm antennas, one for 138°E and the other for 146°E."



to learn English. He got a break in 1993 when he was invited by one of his ex-professors to spend a year at the Central Washington University in the USA and was even allowed to live in this professor's house. Since this family was Jewish and his Chinese name sounded very similar to the Hebrew greeting Shalom, his new nickname was born!

In 1995 luck came his way again: he was once again able to travel to the USA in order to finish his Bachelor of Arts studies. Back in China he began to teach English to others and in order to expose his students and of course himself to the way English is actually spoken, he had a satellite antenna installed in 2003. He was surprised at how easy it was and from that point on he dedicated more and more time to satellite antenna installations.

In 2007, he turned his hobby into his profession. Shalom reflects on those early days: "In 2004 I sold and installed between five and seven systems a month; in 2008 it became 25 per month." Unfortunately though, Shalom is not all that optimistic about the future: "Most of the ex-patriots already have a satellite system."

For this reason Shalom is looking to get his fingers involved in new possibilities: "I've been thinking a lot about taking part in producing and transmitting my own programming." Specifically it would be English-language programming for the Chinese coastal region. Until that idea becomes a reality, he will continue to work with his team of two full-time employees installing satellite antennas in Beijing!