



Portable Radio

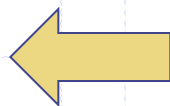


Larry Ryan W7DGP
SEA-PAC 2015

Agenda

- My first portable Dxpedition – GW5ALQ
- A little portable operation on a Dxpedition
- Satellite portable
- Hotel portable* (90% of my portable)
- Fails
- Air travel with ham gear
- Antennas
- Batteries
- What to pack

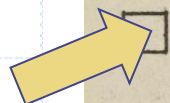
Headline: Anti-technology steer takes down antenna – GW5ALQ/P is off the air!



Normal, contented, lazy dairy cows in rural N. Wales



"Eh! An antenna in my pasture! Yep, a Yank. Get them ropes, I say!"



DX-PEDITION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

G5ALQ HINCKLEY, LEICESTERSHIRE

G5ALQ/A ST. TUDY, CORNWALL

GW5ALQ/P NEAR LAKE BALA, MERIONETHSHIRE, N. WALES

"RIG: EICO 753 XCVR"

CONFIRMING SSB QSO:

TO	RADIO	DATE	GMT	MI	Z	RS
		SEP 68				

Larry L. Ryan W7DGP-11DFD QSL Manager G30UQ

Dxpedition portable: a beach on the Caribbean – VP2MLR, Montserrat



April 2012 Buddipole Dxpedition
Most of the operation was from
a villa up on a hillside. We decided
to do a little portable at Rendezvous
Beach.

Gingerbread Hill villa, Montserrat



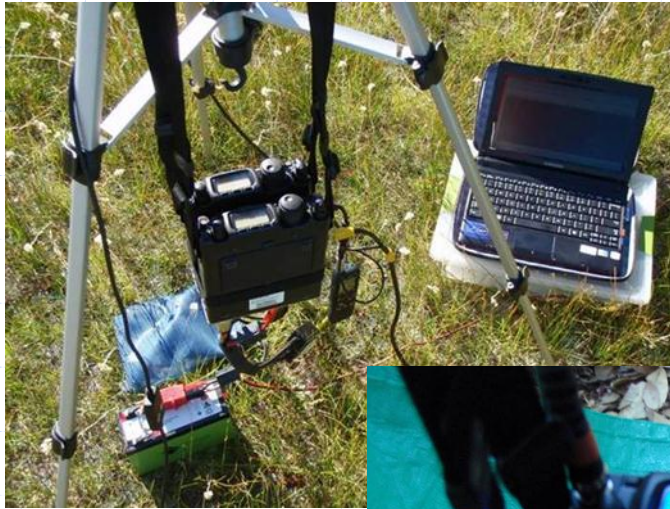
17M Vertical with a
single radial, TRSB
(balun) no coil.



Satellite Portable



Satellite Portable



Deploy comfortable lawn chair near radio operation



Hang twin FT-817s
From the tripod power both
from a single 7Ah gel cell 12v
battery

Thank you, Dave Palmer KB5WIA
For this great idea.

Satellite Portable



Satellite rig can be pretty simple



Tracking app



KC2UHB
Diana Eng

Homebrew



Arrow



Elk

KB5WIA

Satellite Portable – which satellites are operational today?

FM Repeater Satellites

SO-50 (SaudiSat 1-C)

LO-78 (LituanicaSat-1) Now re-entered

EO-80 (QB50p2) In commissioning

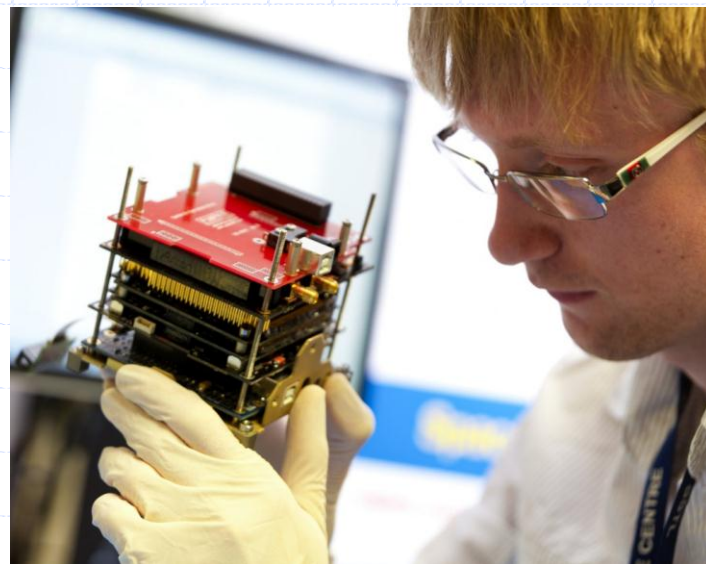
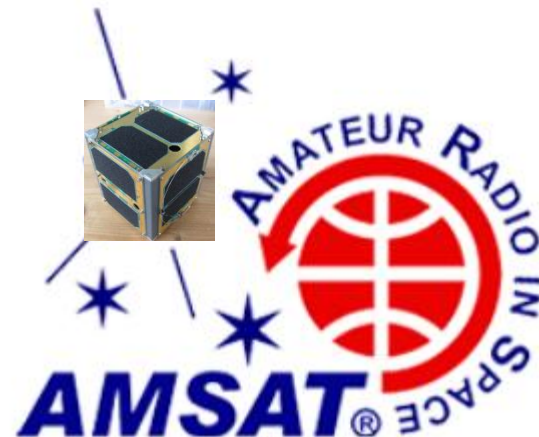
Transponder Satellites

AO-7 (Yeah! Still working!)

FO-29 (JAS-2)

VO-52 (Hamsat) Now end of mission

AO-73 (FUNcube-1)

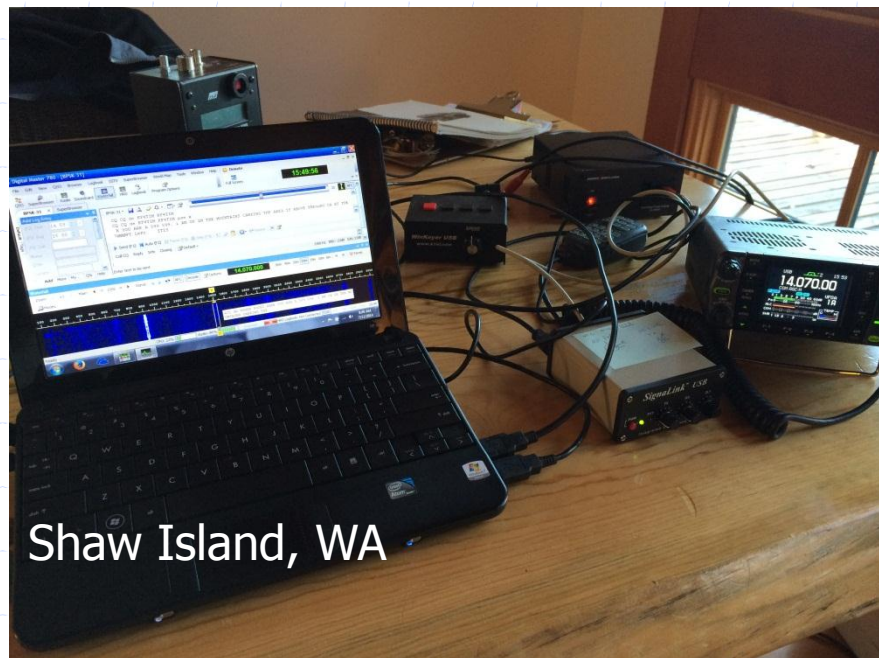


FUNcube

UK Amateur Radio Educational Satellite



Hotel Portable



Shaw Island, WA



CT1/W7DGP/P Lisbon, Portugal



S5/W7DGP Sežana, Slovenia

Preparation for Hotel Portable

Ask for a balcony

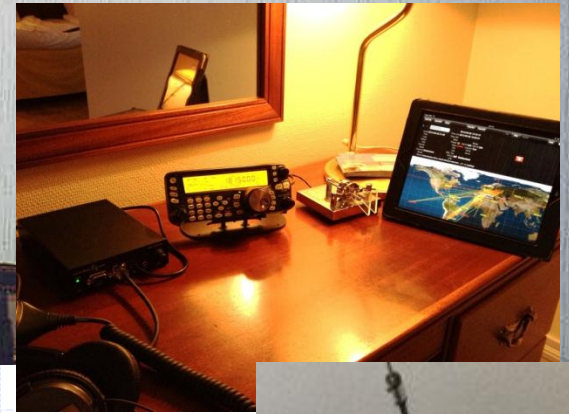
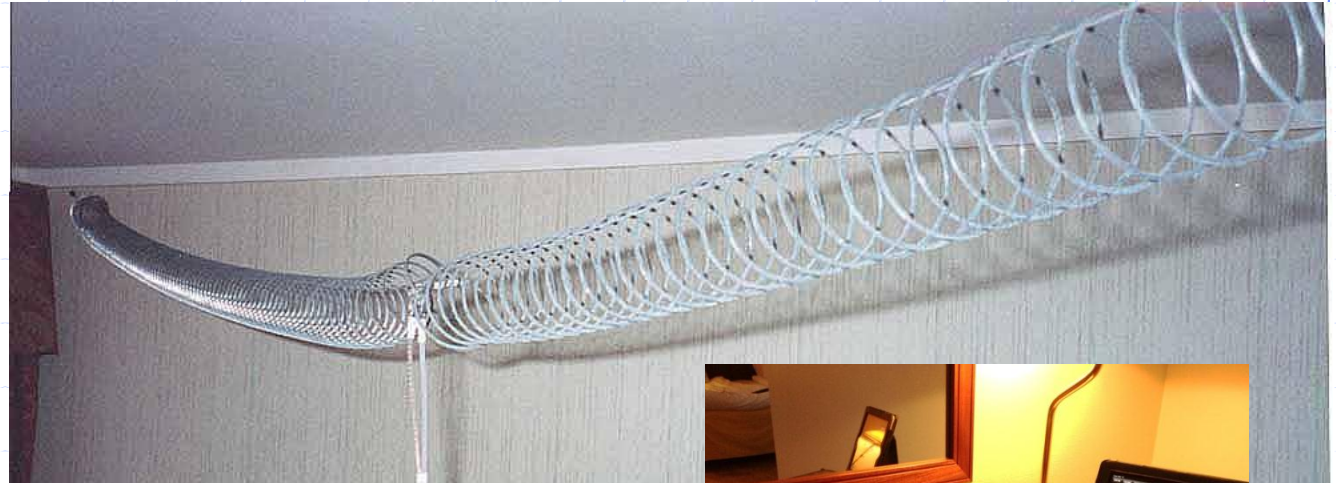


Some hotel windows open a lot, some a little and some don't.

Remember that most balconies overlook the pool – they all see you waving your antennas. They stare and point a lot. Be sure to wave back.



Preparation for Hotel Portable – setting up in the room



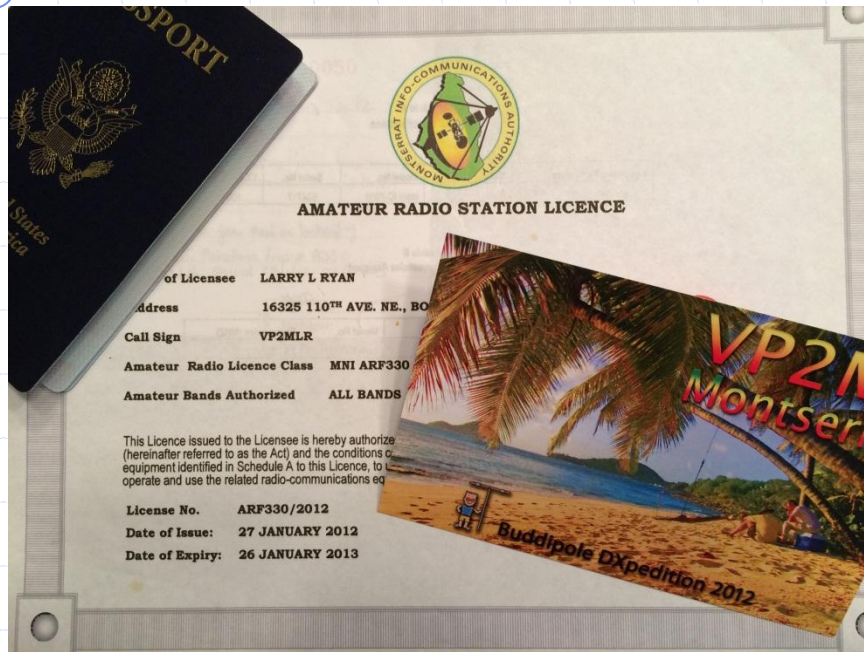
Try to get at least some of the antenna out the window

Take down your station BEFORE housekeeping shows up to clean the room!



Preparation for Dxpedition portable

Passport, License and QSL cards



Make a list and check it twice



Unpacking in Montserrat

BE AWARE of weight limitations by airlines! Montserrat Air flight from Antigua allows only 50lb including carry-on. They check!

Dxpedition fails



6/3/2015

Hotel portable fails

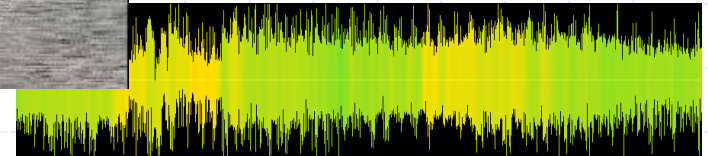
Windows that do not open and are covered with Scotchtint. They are RF tight! – My Sidney, Australia hotel



3M All Season Window Films stop most of the sun's heat before it enters your building.



QRN 30 over 9!



Windows that do not open

Outlets only in the bathroom!



Air travel and ham gear

All of my comments are based on my global “road warrior” experience as a Hewlett-Packard engineer. Over a 15 year period, I flew nearly 700,000 airline miles and packed my ham gear to 16 countries many times.

1. Pack everything but the rig and unpackaged lithium batteries in your checked baggage. Lay on top of it a sheet saying “This is amateur radio gear. I have an FCC license to operate it” or something to that effect. No tools in carry-on!
2. Rigs I have carried (FT-817 and IC-7000) are kept in the carry-on bag through x-ray. DO NOT set it out like a laptop. You will get questions. All you have to say is to tell them what it is.
3. Lithium batteries will also be questioned. You may have to remind TSA that their rule is loose lithiums go in carry-on.
<http://www.tsa.gov/traveler-information/safe-travel-batteries-and-devices>
4. In some countries when exiting, customs inspectors have asked about the gear in checked bags. “Amateur radio equipment”
5. There are TOO MANY STORIES about TSA problems. I never had a TSA problem. The TSA has a “resonant frequency”. Tune to it!

Remote radio – an alternative to hauling all that equipment around – **not** really portable operation

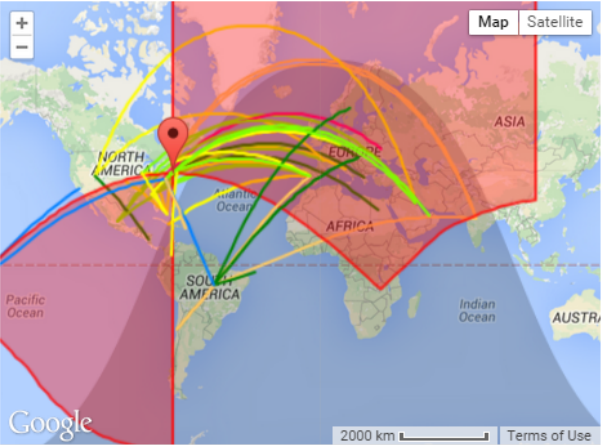
RemoteHamRadio – RemoteDX

A : 8 K : 1 SFI : 137 SSN : 126 23:41:17 W7DGP

W2/Quaker W2/Valhalla W2/Windham W2/Taconic **W1/Danbury** W6/SanJoaquin KH6/Pearl IT9/Sicily

Off-Center-Fed Dipole @ 100' **20m**

Go Anywhere **GO** STOP LP



Map Satellite

Station Status \$0.09/min **WEBDX** **IN USE BY W7DGP** 40s

REMOTERIG NOW AVAILABLE

Connecticut Grid: FN31 600' ASL

ARRL CT Fairfield County ITU 8

CQZ 5

09:34 / 00:04

Config RRC

PowerMaster **ALARM**

0 W

Elecraft K3 **VOX** **RX**

14.240.100 14.240.100

20m USB SLOW

A → B A ↔ B SPLIT

S4

PTT (CTRL KEY) PRE ATT More

Troubleshoot Audio

Antennas for portable operation

For all my portable operation, I have used only 4 different antennas:

1. Wire dipole
2. Buddipole dipole and vertical (see my VP2MLR info on QRZ.com)
3. Ventenna HFp-V vertical
4. Older Superantenna vertical (no photo available)

Ventenna HFp-V vertical

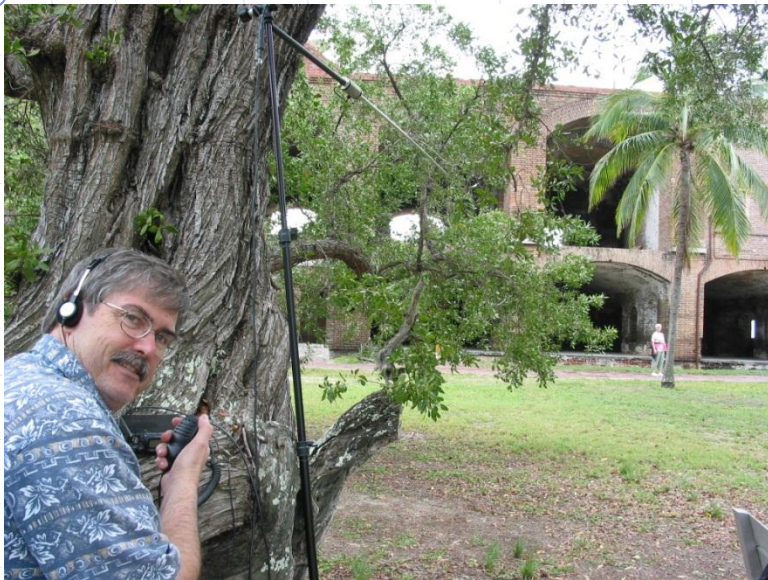


Buddipole vertical



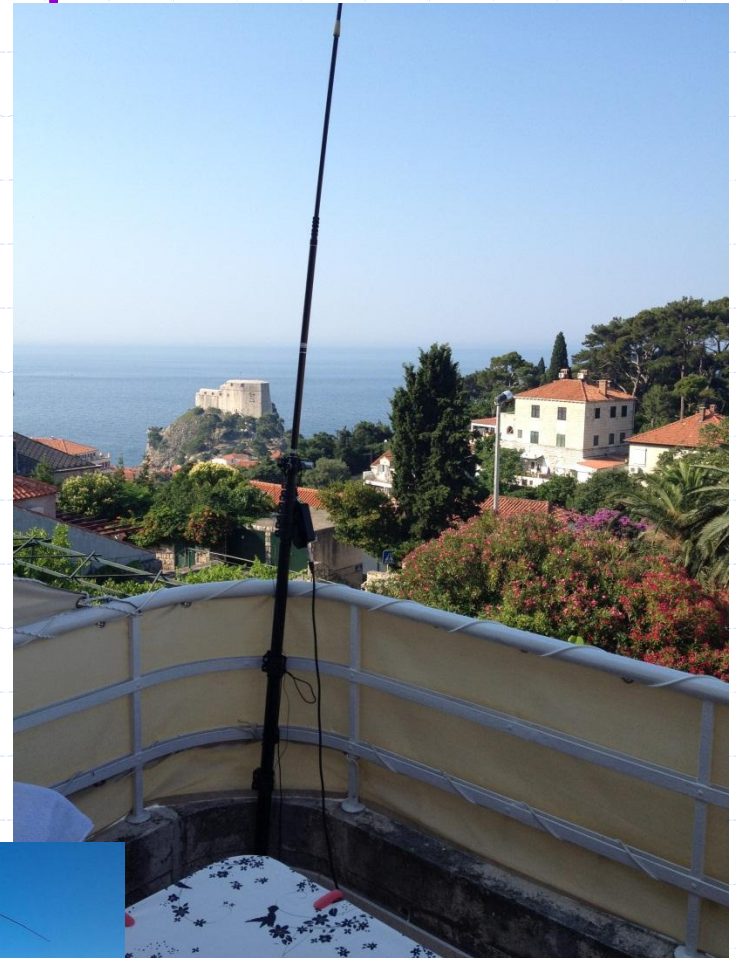
and dipole

Antennas for portable operation



Dry Tortugas Island
National Park, FL
5w on 20m SSB

Not mobile! Your car makes a
great antenna mount for this
40m antenna.



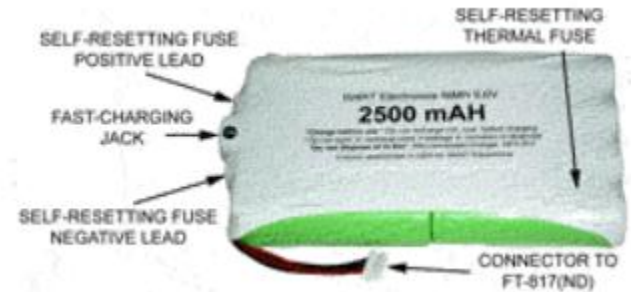
9A/W7DGP on 17m
Dubrovnik, Croatia

Batteries for portable operation

Currently popular rechargeable battery technologies:

- Sealed lead-acid – heavy, lowest cost
- NiMH (Nickel metal hydride) – low discharge rate
- Lithium (LiFePo4) – lightest, most expensive, needs special charger

I use these NiMH batteries in my FT-817's:



7Ah sealed Lead-acid

Special charger For Lithium



10Ah Lithium

Tools – what to bring with you, part I



3 Guy Ropes

80 m radial

Radials

Ropes for rope tricks

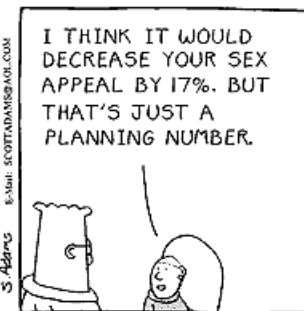
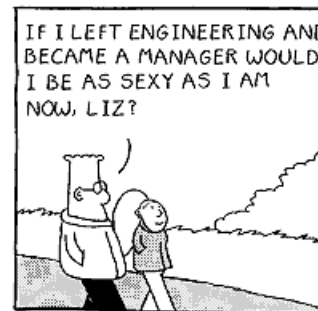
Tools – what to bring with you, part II



Questions?



73!



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