

# SIX METERS

THE “MAGIC BAND”

*Revisited*



50.313.000

# HISTORY

Whatever happened to TV Channel 1?

Year		6 Meter Band	FM	TV 1	TV 2
1924	US action	56-64 MHz			
1927	International action	56-60 MHz			
1934	FCC established				
1937-1938	6 MHz TV channels	56-60 MHz		44-50 MHz	50-56 MHz
1940	FCC action	56-60 MHz	42-50MHz	50-56 MHz	60-66 MHz
1941	World War II				
1946	FCC action	50-54 MHz	88-108 MHz	44-50 MHz	54-60 MHz
1948	TV 1 removed				

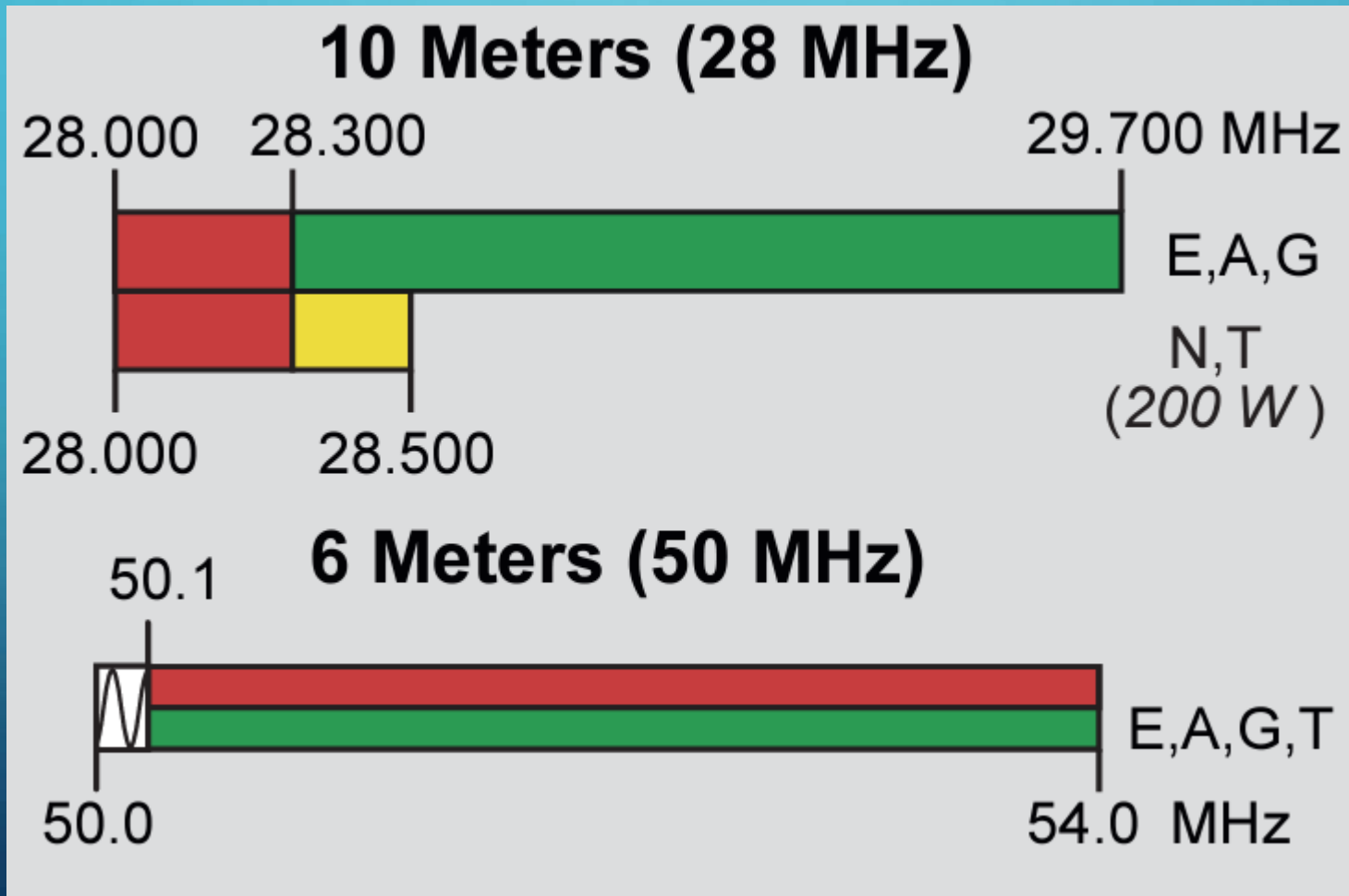
And what is TVI?



30 MHz ISM - 40.68 + 02 MHz



# ALL AMATEURS HAVE SAME PRIVILEGES



Weak Signal Operating	
50.0-50.1	CW, beacons
50.1-50.3	SSB, CW
50.1-50.125	DX window (CW & SSB)
50.11	DX Calling Frequency
50.125	SSB calling
50.3-50.6	All modes
51.0-51.1	Pacific DX window
50.180-50210	EME
50.260	MSK144
50.276	JT65
50.290	PSK31
50.293	WSPR
50.313	FT8

FM Simplex	
51.500	Simplex
51.520	
51.540	
51.560	
51.580	
51.600	
52.020	
52.040	
52.525	National Calling
52.545	
53.020	
53.520	
53.900	

Radio Remote Control	
50.800	
50.820	
50.840	
50.860	
50.880	
50.900	
50.920	
50.940	
50.960	
50.980	
51.000	
53.100	
53.200	
53.300	
53.400	
53.500	
53.600	
53.700	
53.800	

Other Operations	
50.060-50.080	beacon sub-band
50.600-50.800	Non-voice communications
53.000	Remote base FM simplex
52.200	Test Pair (input)
52.700	Test Pair (output)

Digital Modes	
51.120	Digital repeater inputs
51.180	
51.620	Digital repeater outputs
51.680	
50.620	Packet calling

Group 1 Repeaters +0.5 MHz Offset	
51.120	Inputs
51.140	
51.160	
51.180	
51.200	

Group 2 Repeaters +0.5 MHz Offset	
52.000	Inputs
52.060	
52.080	
52.100	
52.120	

Group 3 Repeaters +0.5 MHz Offset	
53.040	Inputs
53.060	
53.080	
53.120	
53.140	

51.6400 -	141.3 / 141.3	Brandon	Hillsborough	W4HSO	OPEN	FM	+
53.0100 -		Crescent City	Putnam	KI4NAD	OPEN	FM	○
53.0300 -	107.2	Miami	Miami-Dade	AC4XQ	OPEN	FM	+
53.0300 -	94.8 / 94.8	Tallahassee	Leon	K4TLH	OPEN	FM	+
53.0500 -	100.0 / 100.0	Holly Hill	Volusia	KI4RF	OPEN	FM EchoLink	+
53.0500 -		Panama City	Bay	AC4QB	OPEN	FM	+
53.0700 -	118.8 / 118.8	Cocoa	Brevard	WB4O EZ	OPEN	FM	○
53.0900 -	123.0 / 123.0	High Springs, Poe Springs Park	Alachua	WA4QLA	OPEN	FM	⚡
53.1300 -	100.0 / 100.0	Weeki Wachee	Hernando	KF4CIK	OPEN	FM	✖
53.1500 -	146.2 / 146.2	Pinellas Park	Pinellas	W4ORM	OPEN	FM	+
53.1700 -	103.5 / 103.5	Elkton	Saint Johns	KI4NAD	OPEN	FM	○
53.1900 -	100.0 / 100.0	Orange Park	Clay	K4SIX	OPEN	FM	✖
53.2300 -	103.5 / 103.5	Eustis	Lake	KD4MBN	OPEN	FM	+
53.3300 -	127.3 / 127.3	Jacksonville	Duval	W4RNG	OPEN	FM	+
53.3300 -	100.0 / 100.0	Vero Beach	Indian River	KG4ORQ	OPEN	FM EchoLink	+
53.3900 -		Lake City	Suwannee	N4SVC	OPEN	FM	+
53.4300 -	100.0 / 100.0	Melbourne	Brevard	K4MRG	OPEN	FM AllStar	+
53.7300 -		Crescent City	Putnam	KJ4UOP	OPEN	FM	+
53.7500 -	110.9 / 110.9	Fort Lauderdale	Broward	KF4LZA	OPEN	FM	+

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a network of light blue lines and circles that resemble a circuit board or a neural network structure. The lines are vertical and horizontal, with small circles at various points, creating a complex, branching pattern.

What Makes  
It So Magic?

PROPAGATION

# 6m Modes

## NON-ATMOSPHERIC AND NON-IONOSPHERIC

line-of-sight  
ground wave

## ATMOSPHERIC

tropospheric scatter  
tropospheric ducting  
SSSP  
meteor scatter

## IONOSPHERIC

aurora/auroral-E  
ionospheric scatter  
E hops  
sporadic-E  
F2 hops  
TEP  
Ducting/chordal hops  
combos of E & F hops  
above-the-MUF  
skewed paths

## EXTRATERRESTRIAL

moon bounce

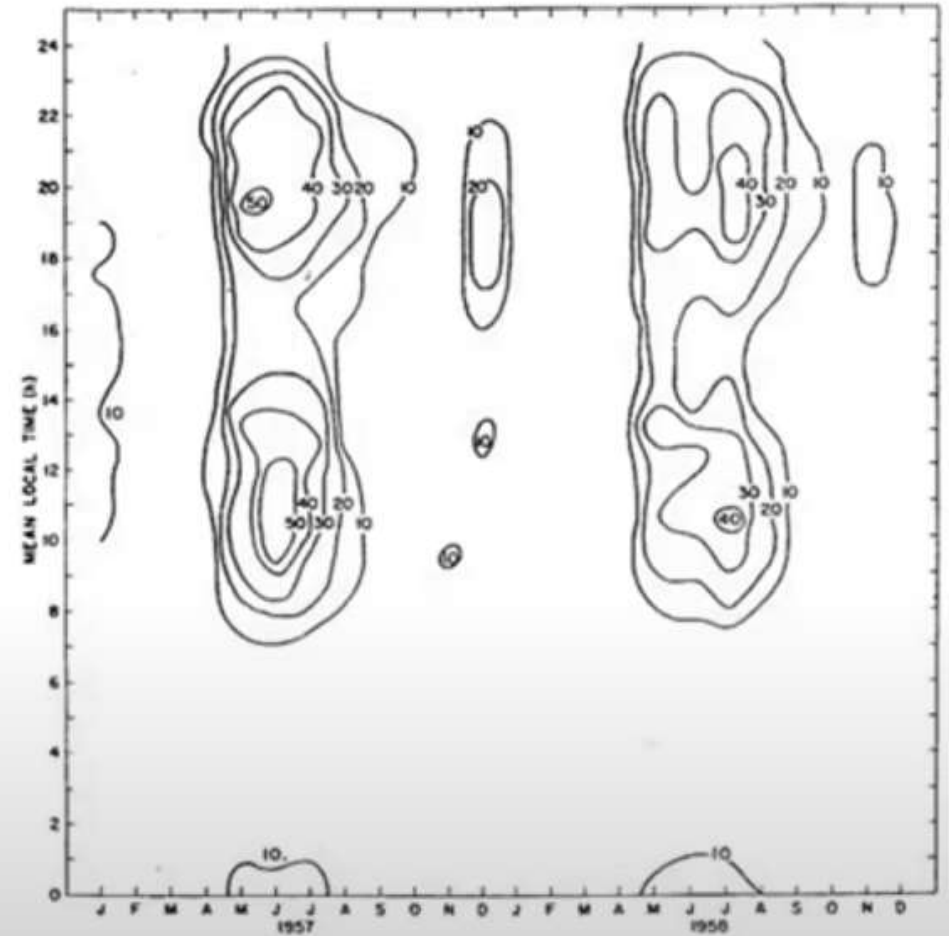


# Sporadic E (Es)

- Seasonal
  - May – July (Northern Hemisphere)
  - Smaller peak in mid-winter
- Unpredictable
  - Es Clouds vary greatly in size
  - They move
- Their method of creation is unknown
  - Several theories – wind shear, meteors
- Signals can double hop

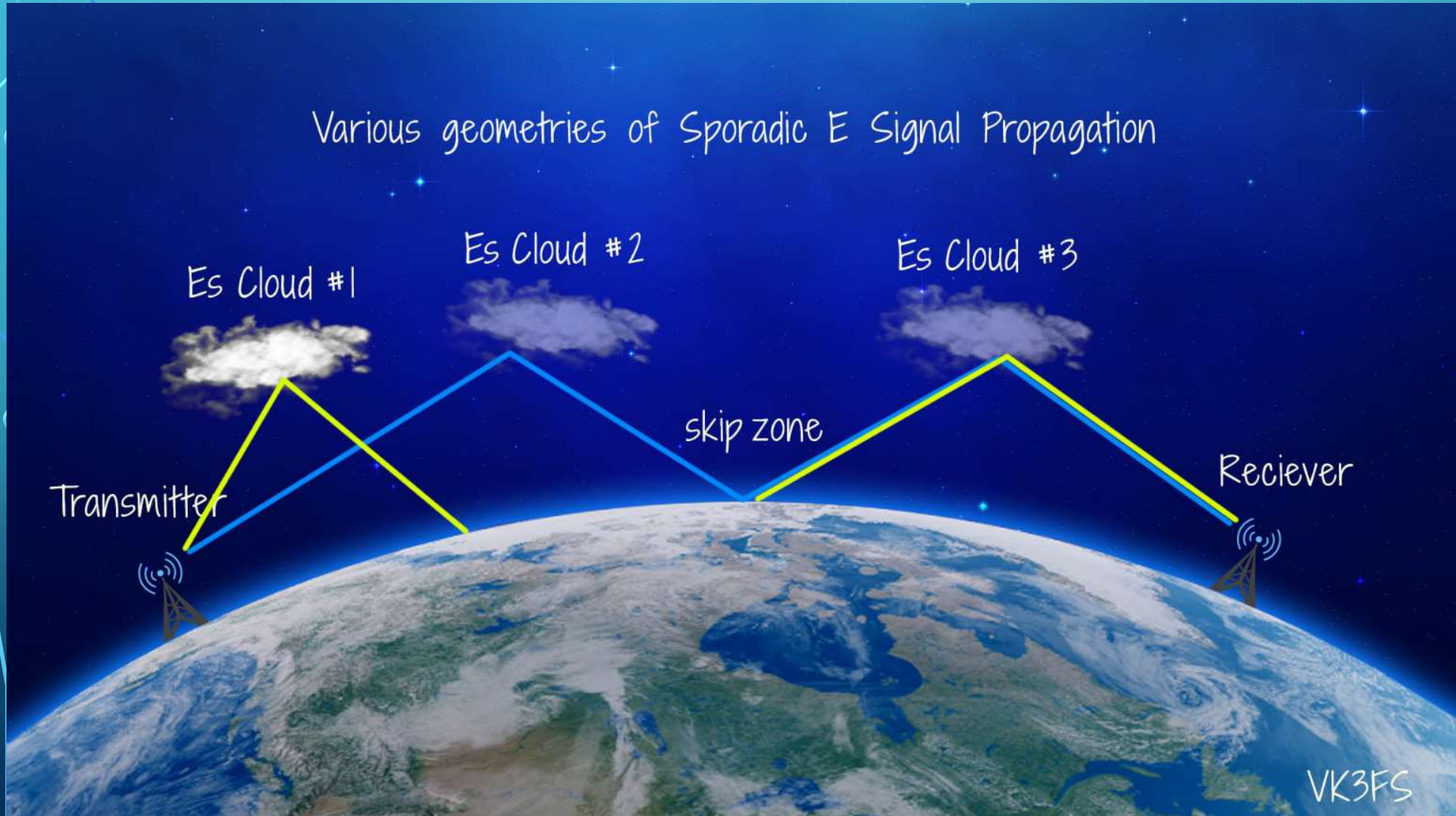
# Sporadic-E

- It's called sporadic-E because we can't predict it
- We know the general pattern with respect to month and local time
- We don't know on which days it will occur
- Summer is best
- Bi-modal probability
  - Late morning (local)
  - Early/late evening (local)
- Bi-modal probability can allow long distance QSOs



# SPORADIC E (Es)

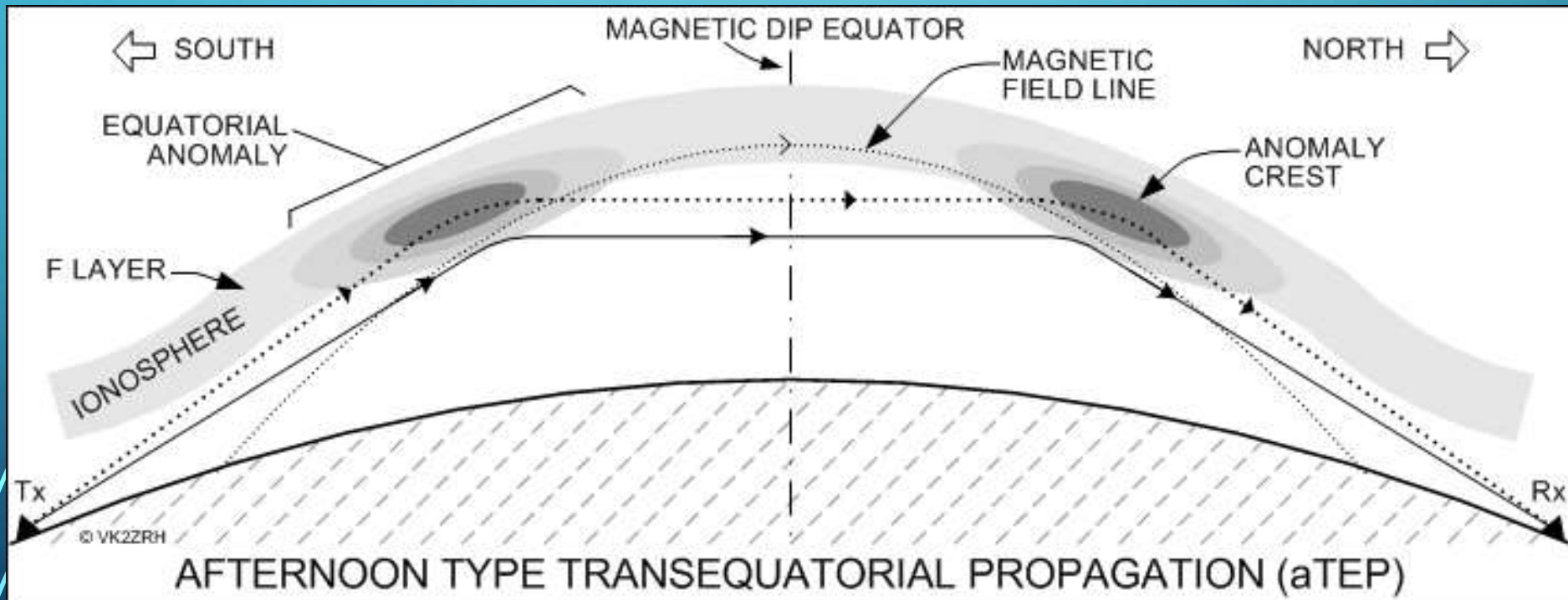
Various geometries of Sporadic E Signal Propagation





# TEP

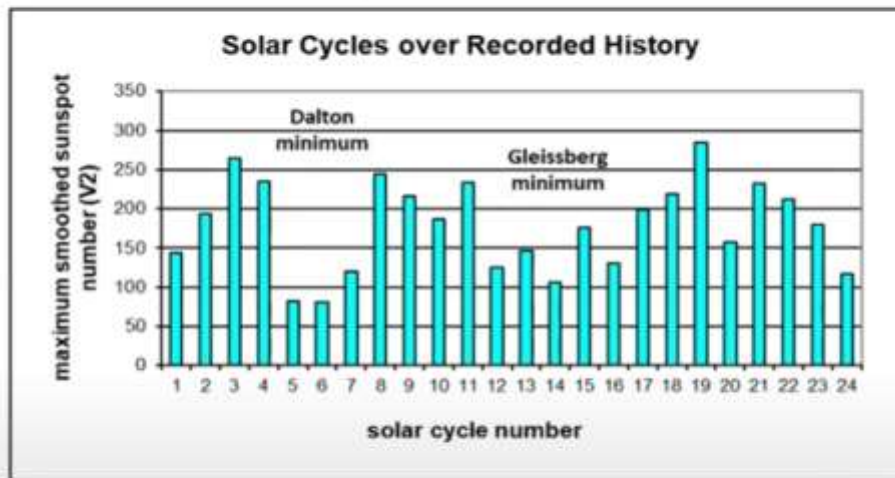
## Trans-Equatorial Propagation



# F Layer

Refraction occurs only when solar flux is high

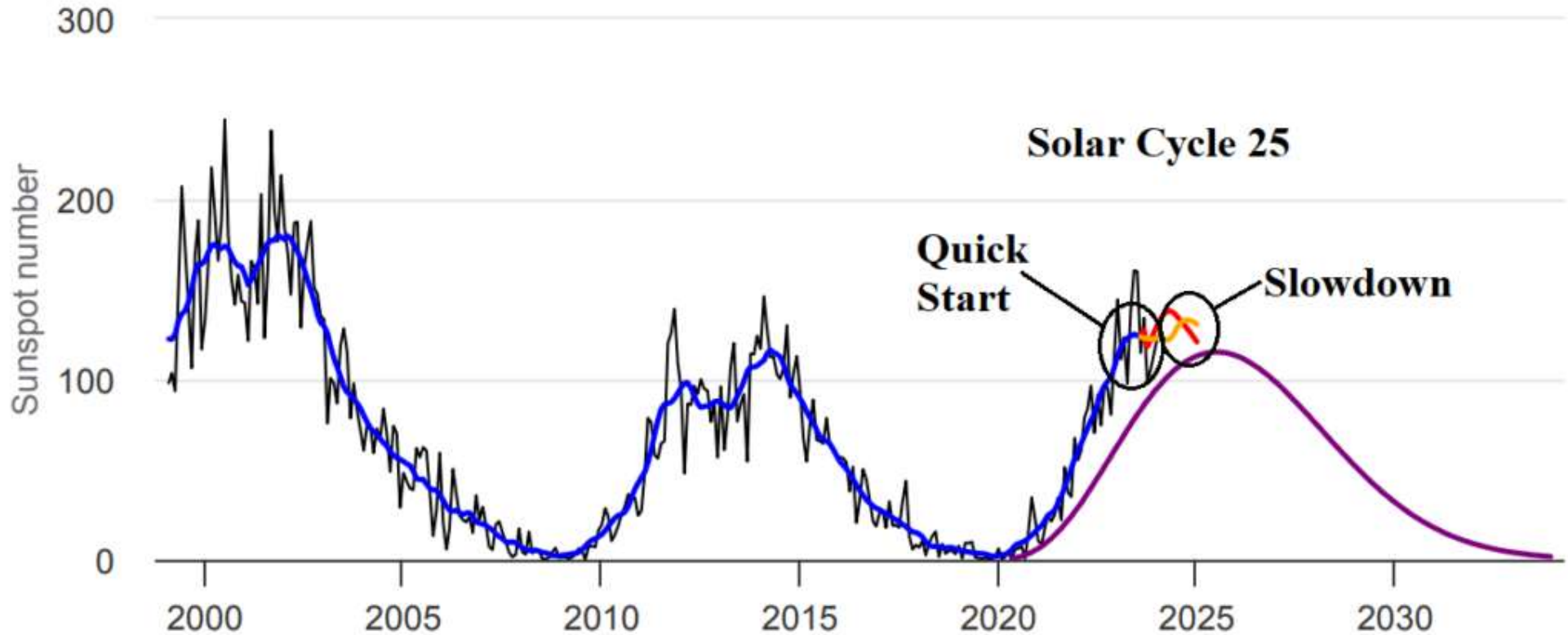
## Recorded History



Cycle 24 was the smallest in our lifetimes and the 4<sup>th</sup> smallest in recorded history

*Critical question – will Cycle 25 get us out of the third period of small cycles?*

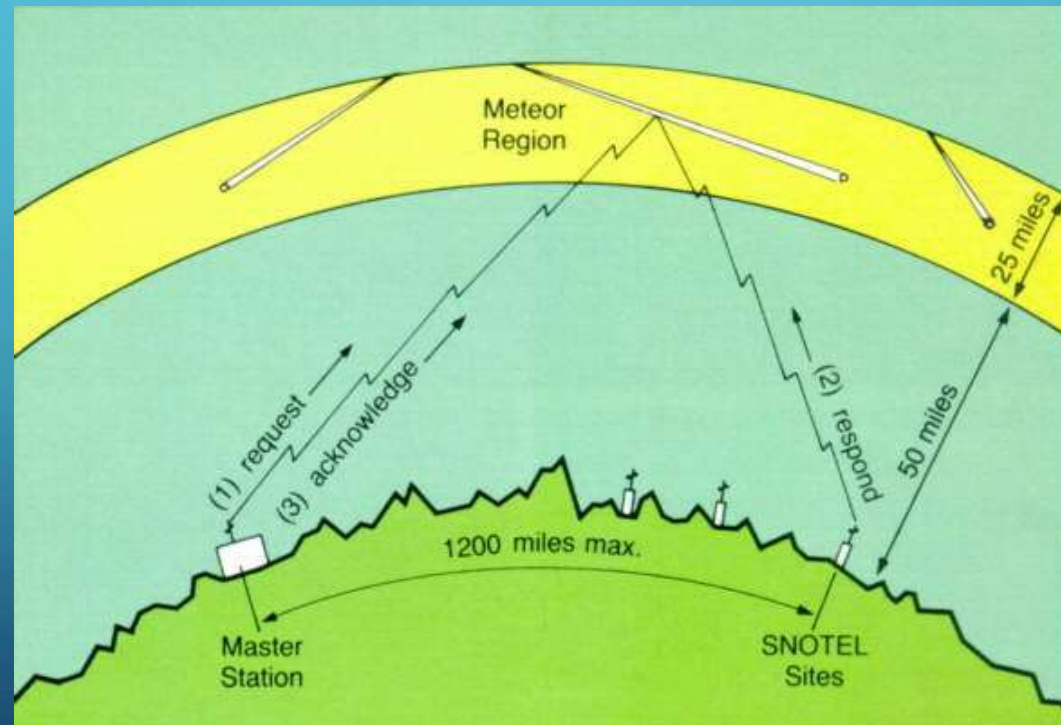
# Solar Cycle progression - Sunspot number



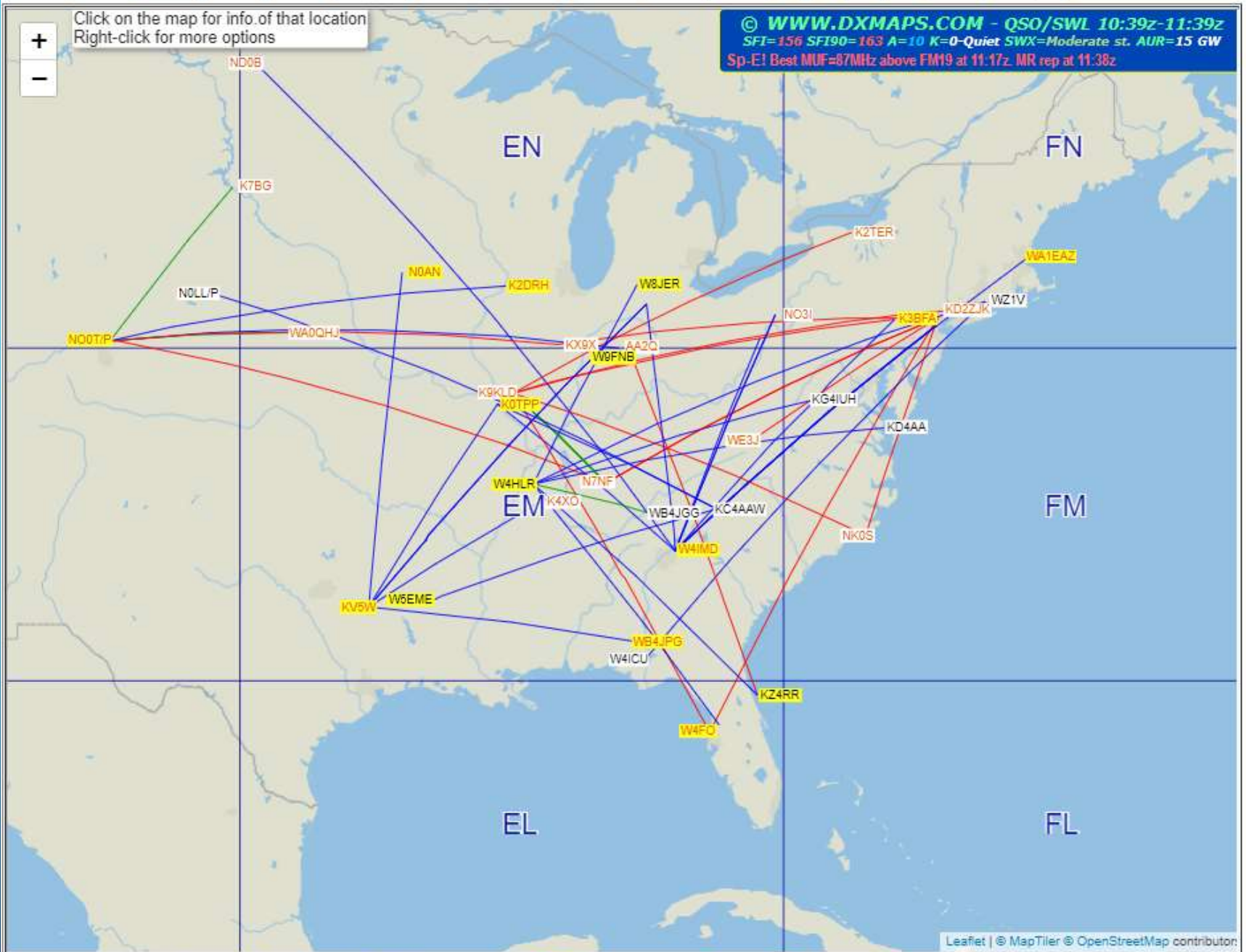
- Monthly mean Sunspot Number
- ◆ Monthly Smoothed Sunspot Number
- Predicted Sunspot Number (Standard curves method)
- ★ Predicted Sunspot Number (Combined method)
- ▼ Solar Cycle 25 prediction

# Meteor Scatter

## Ionoscatter





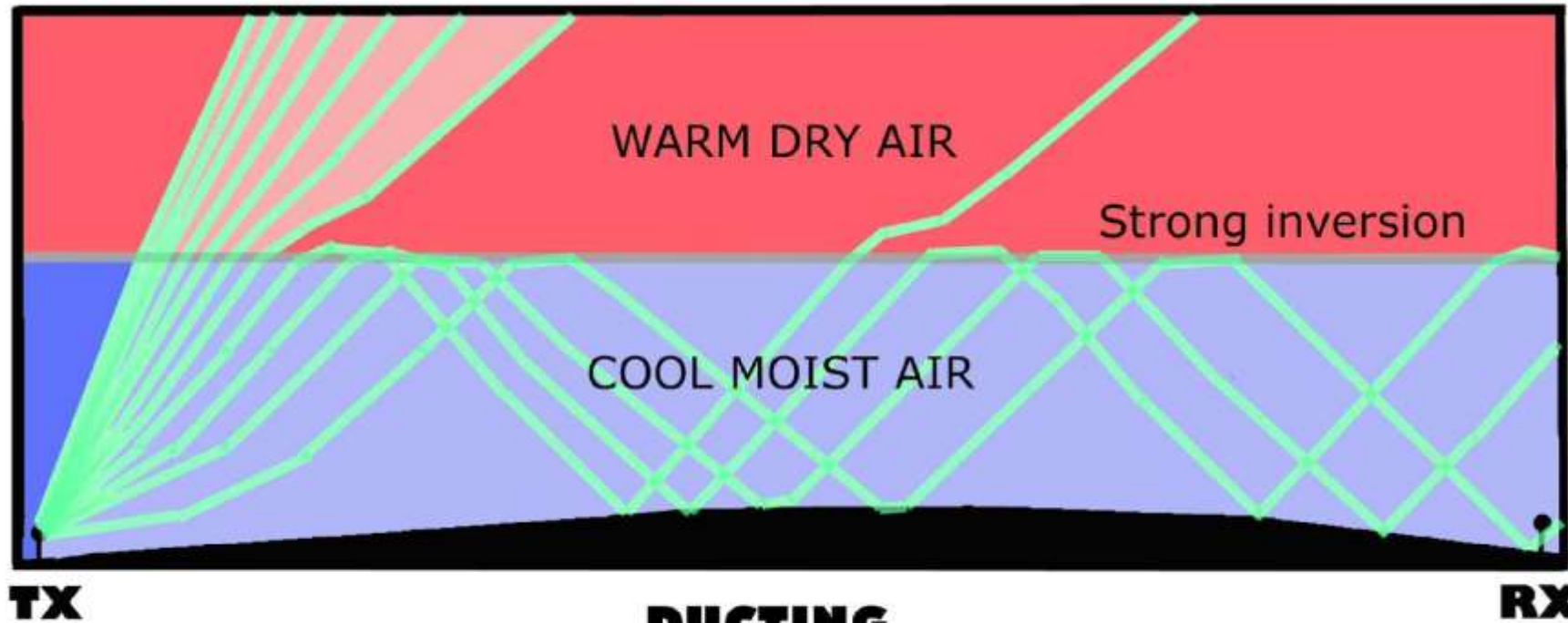


Aurora	Aurora-E	Back-Scatter	EME	Sporadic-E	Multihop Sp-E	FAI
Iono-Scatter	MS	TEP	Tropo	F2	Aircraft Scat.	Unknown

## 2024 Major Meteor Showers (Class I)

Shower	Activity Period	Maximum		Radiant		Velocity	r	Max.	Time	Moon
		Date	S. L.	R.A.	Dec.	km/s	ZHR			
Quadrantids (QUA)	Dec 26-Jan 16	Jan 04	283.3°	15:20	+49.7°	40.2	2.1	120	0500	23
Lyrids (LYR)	Apr 15-Apr 29	Apr 22	032.4°	18:10	+33.3°	46.8	2.1	18	0400	14
eta Aquarids (ETA)	Apr 15-May 27	May 05	046.2°	22:30	-01.1°	65.5	2.4	60	0400	26
Southern delta Aquarids (SDA)	Jul 18-Aug 21	Jul 30	127.6°	22:42	-16.3°	40.3	3.2	20	0300	25
Perseids (PER)	Jul 14-Sep 01	Aug 12	140.0°	03:13	+58.0°	58.8	2.6	100	0400	07
Orionids (ORI)	Sep 26-Nov 22	Oct 20	207.5°	06:21	+15.6°	66.1	2.5	23	0500	17
Leonids (LEO)	Nov 03-Dec 02	Nov 18	236.0°	10:17	+21.6°	70.0	2.5	15	0500	18
Geminids (GEM)	Nov 19-Dec 24	Dec 13	262°0	07:34	+32.3°	33.8	2.6	120	0100	12
Ursids (URS)	Dec 13-Dec 24	Dec 22	270°5	14:36	+75.3°	33.0	3.0	10	0500	22

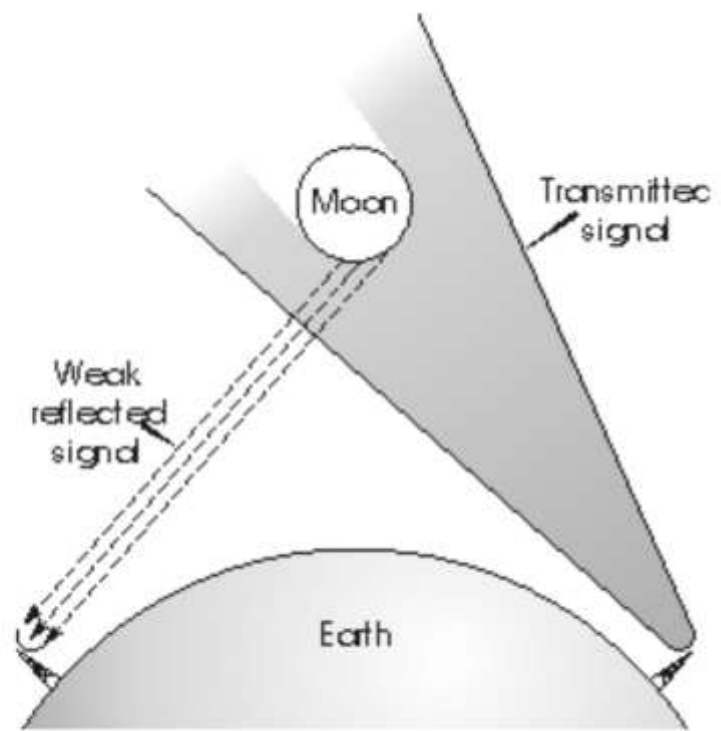
# Tropospheric Ducting



**DUCTING**  
Signals bend down and reflect off the ground.  
RX receives signal from TX. Radar shows strong ground clutter.

W. HEPBURN

# EME



Concept of Moonbounce EME propagation

A decorative graphic on the left side of the image, consisting of a network of light blue lines and small circles, resembling a circuit board or a data network. The lines are vertical and horizontal, with some diagonal connections, and the circles are placed at various points along these lines.

# RADIOS







# ANTENNAS

Small size due to short wavelength

Easy to build and erect

Clever designs

Polarization becomes a factor



# AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA LENGTH CHART

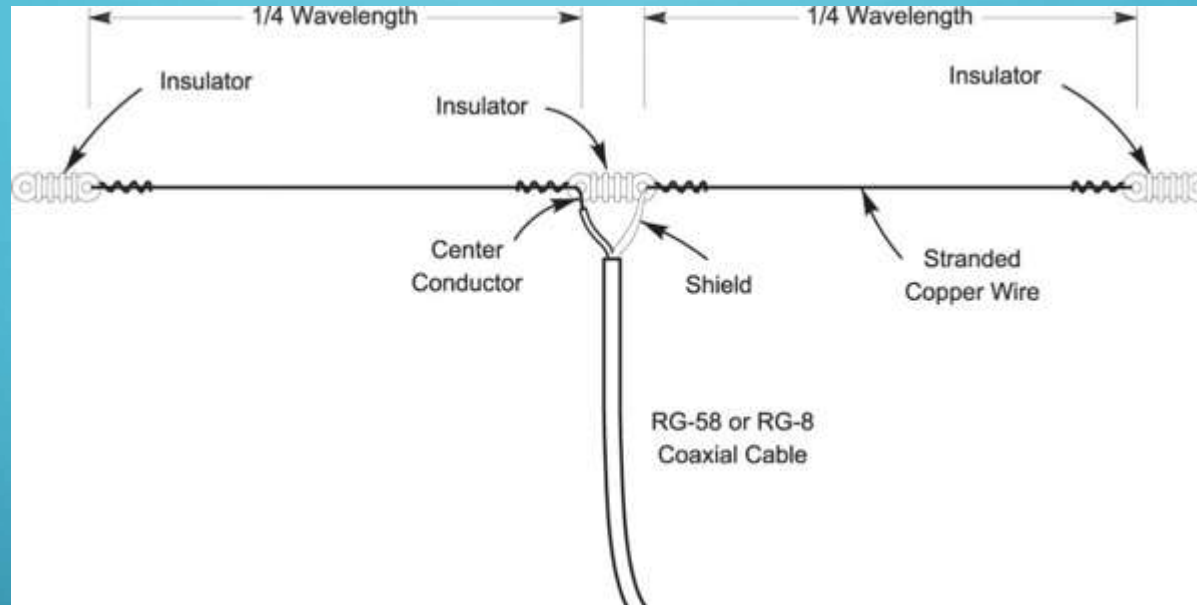
	FREQUENCY (Mhz)	1/4λ (Feet)	1/2λ (Feet)	1λ (Feet)	1/2λ Inv Vee 90° (Feet)
<b>160</b> METERS	1.800	130' 0"	260' 0"	558' 4"	257' 5"
	1.850	126' 6"	253' 0"	543' 3"	250' 5"
	1.900	123' 2"	246' 4"	528' 11"	243' 10"
	2.000	117' 0"	234' 0"	502' 6"	231' 8"
<b>80</b> METERS	3.500	66' 10"	133' 9"	287' 2"	132' 5"
	3.750	62' 5"	124' 10"	268' 0"	123' 7"
	3.900	60' 0"	120' 0"	257' 8"	118' 10"
	4.000	58' 6"	117' 0"	251' 3"	115' 10"
<b>40</b> METERS	7.000	33' 5"	66' 10"	143' 7"	66' 2"
	7.150	32' 9"	65' 5"	140' 7"	64' 10"
	7.300	32' 1"	64' 1"	137' 8"	63' 6"
<b>30</b> METERS	10.100	23' 2"	46' 4"	99' 6"	45' 10"
	10.150	23' 1"	46' 1"	99' 0"	45' 8"
<b>20</b> METERS	14.000	16' 9"	33' 5"	71' 9"	33' 1"
	14.150	16' 6"	33' 1"	71' 0"	32' 9"
	14.300	16' 4"	32' 9"	70' 3"	32' 5"
	14.350	16' 4"	32' 7"	70' 0"	32' 3"
<b>17</b> METERS	18.068	12' 11"	25' 11"	55' 7"	25' 8"
	18.168	12' 11"	25' 9"	55' 4"	25' 6"
<b>15</b> METERS	21.000	11' 2"	22' 3"	47' 10"	22' 1"
	21.200	11' 0"	22' 1"	47' 5"	21' 10"
	21.450	10' 11"	21' 10"	46' 10"	21' 7"
<b>12</b> METERS	24.890	9' 5"	18' 10"	40' 5"	18' 7"
	24.990	9' 4"	18' 9"	40' 3"	18' 6"
<b>10</b> METERS	28.000	8' 4"	16' 9"	35' 11"	16' 7"
	28.500	8' 3"	16' 5"	35' 3"	16' 3"
	29.700	7' 11"	15' 9"	33' 10"	15' 7"
<b>6</b> METERS	50.000	4' 8"	9' 4"	20' 1"	9' 3"
	54.000	4' 4"	8' 8"	18' 7"	8' 7"
<b>2</b> METERS	144.000	1' 8"	3' 3"	7' 0"	3' 3"
	148.000	1' 7"	3' 2"	6' 9"	3' 2"

Antenna length calculations are based on the following formulas:  
 1/2 wave dipole (feet) = 468/frequency in MHz  
 Full wave loop (feet) = 1005/frequency in MHz  
 Inverted Vee with 90 degree included angle is 95% the length of 1/2 wave dipole

Note:  
 Cut wire slightly longer to allow for connecting insulators and pronging.  
 Height above ground, nearby wires, trees, etc. will change tuning slightly.

MILLENNIA  
 ARTS

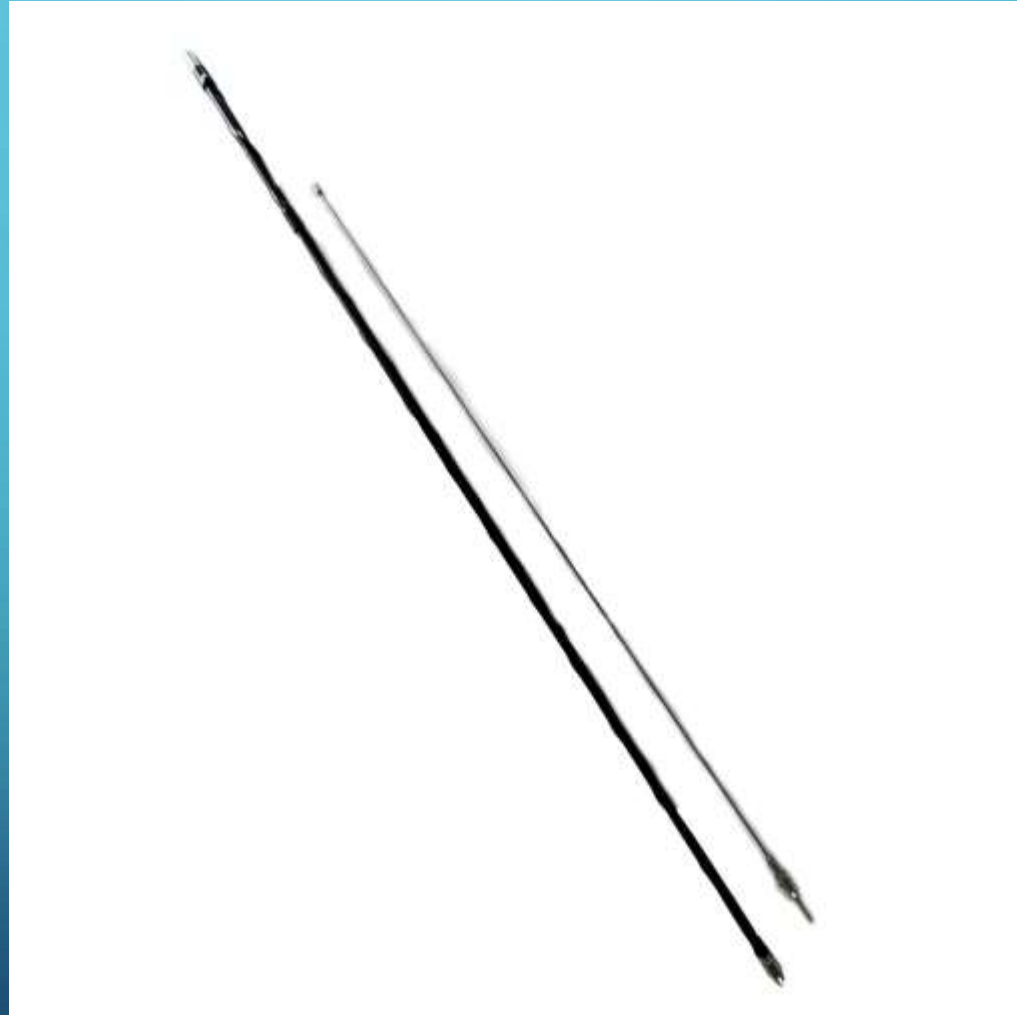
# Simple Dipole



$$L = \frac{468}{f}$$

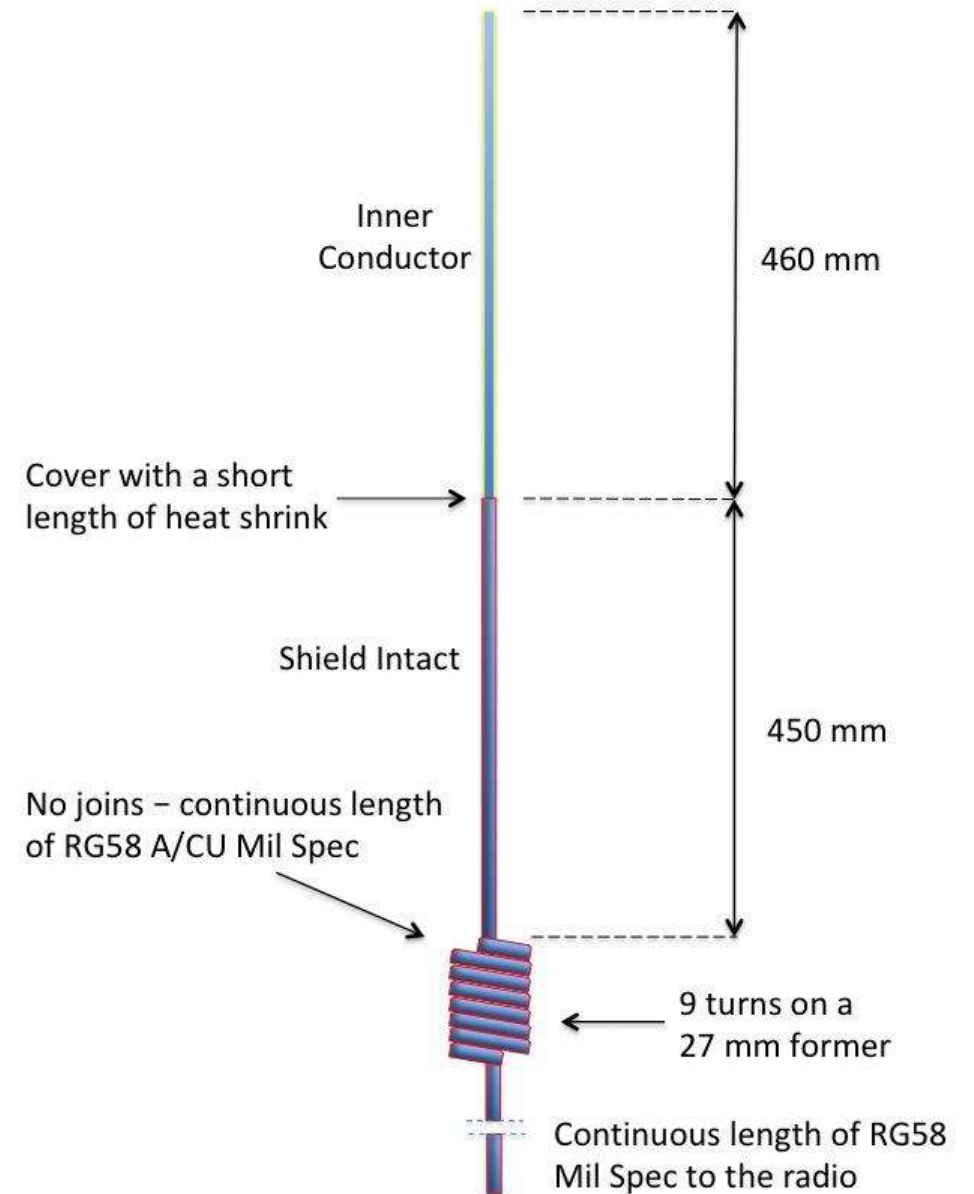
$$468 / 50.313 = 9.3 \text{ ft}$$

# Hamstick

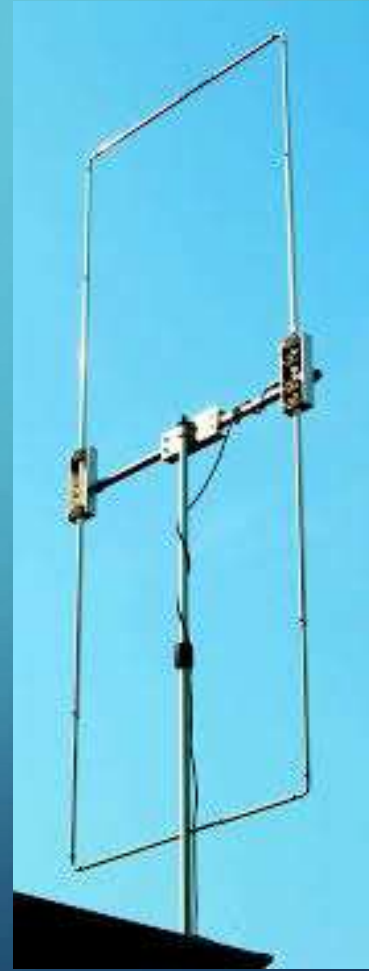


# FlowerPot

“Coaxial Antenna”



# Moxon



# Yagi



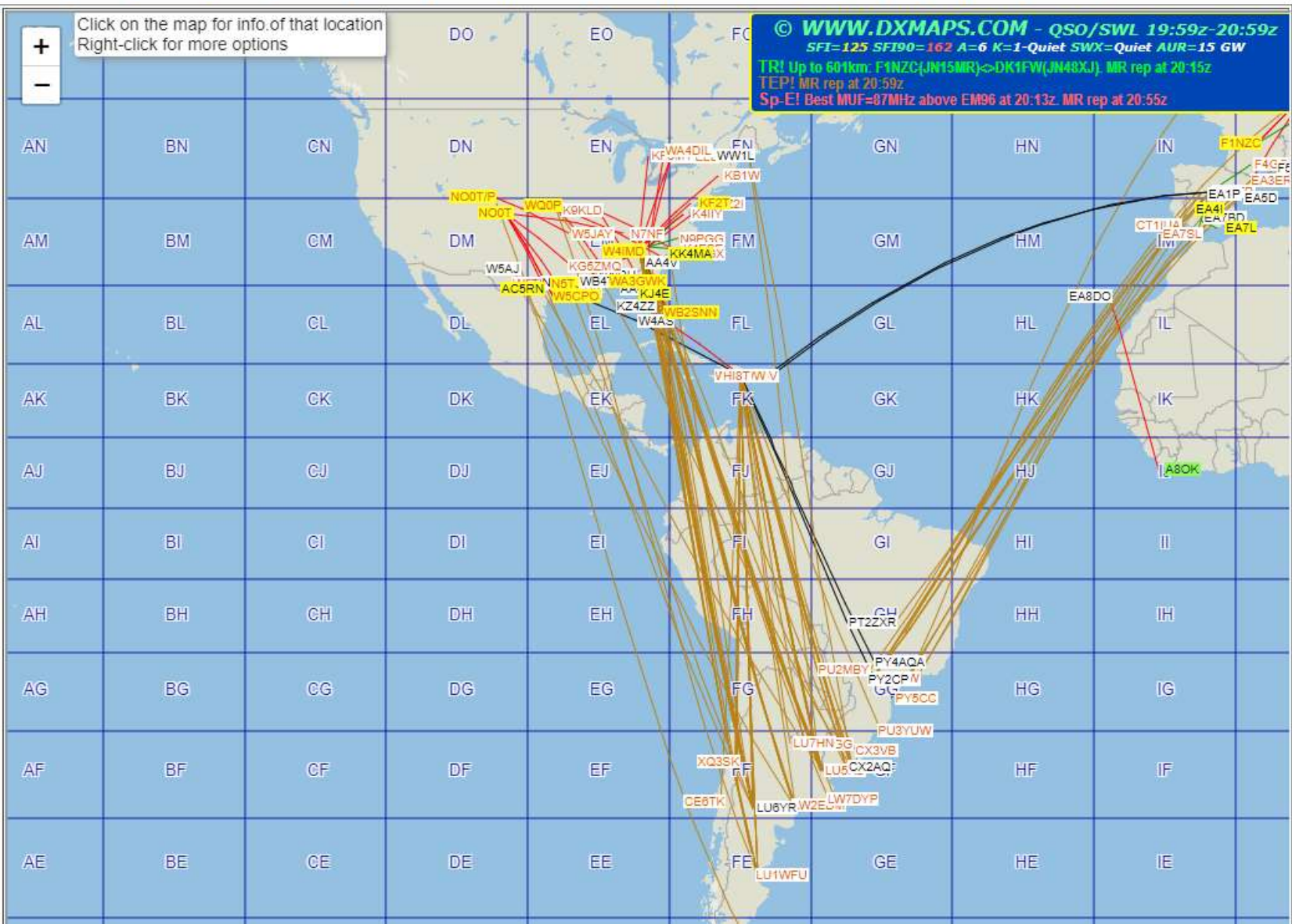




SOFTWARE



28 MHz 40 MHz **50 MHz** 70 MHz 144 MHz 222 MHz 432 MHz >450 MHz All bands Satellite FM DX DAB VOR AIS APRS Ticker MUF Sp-E

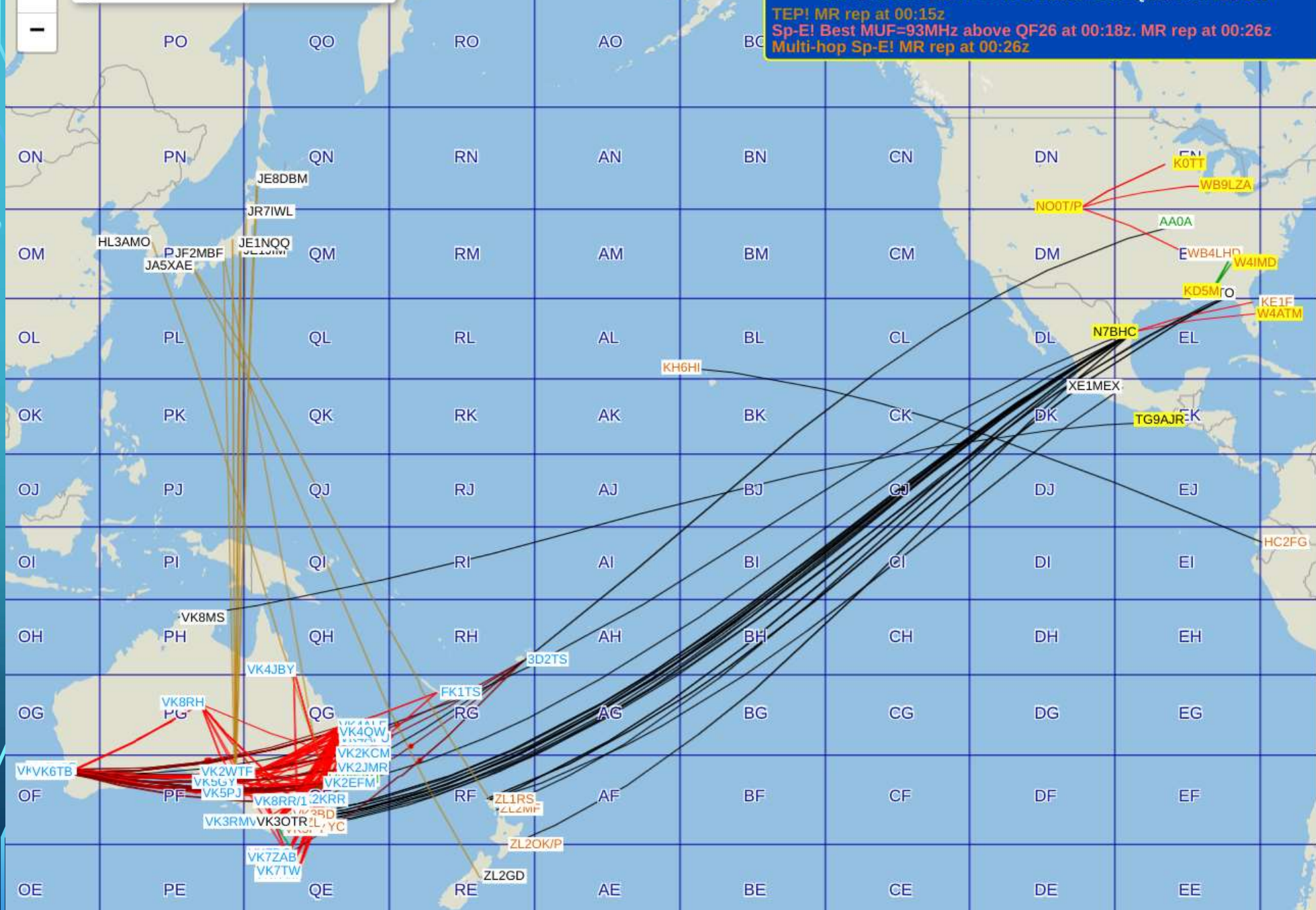


# DXMaps.com



Click on the map for that location  
Right-click for more options

© WWW.DXMAPS.COM - QSO/SWL 23:40z-00:29z  
SFI=0 SFI90=133 A=10 K=3-Active SWX=Quiet AUR=51 GW  
TEP! MR rep at 00:15z  
Sp-E! Best MUF=93MHz above QF26 at 00:18z. MR rep at 00:26z  
Multi-hop Sp-E! MR rep at 00:26z

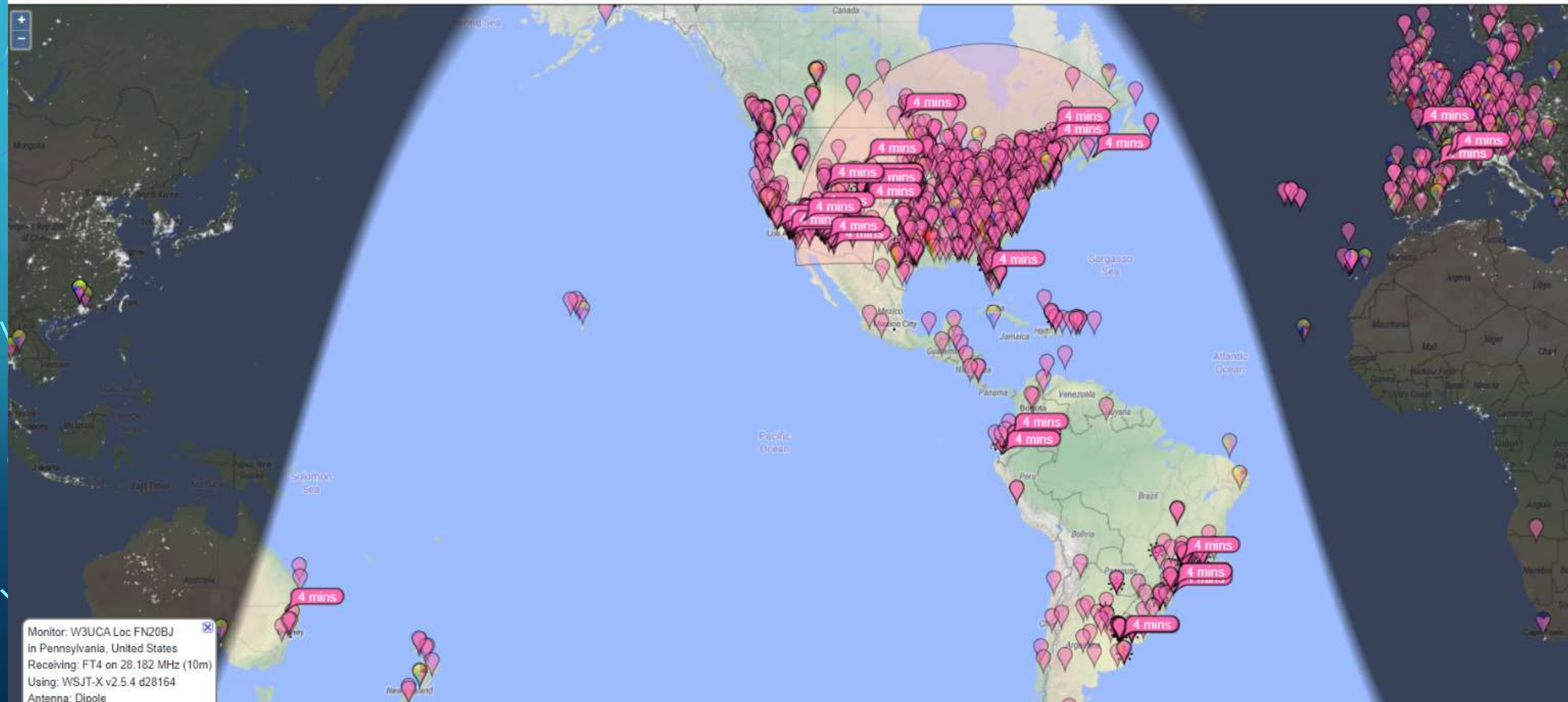


# PSK Reporter

On , show , sent/rcvd by ,  using , over the last ,  [Display options](#) [Permalink](#)

Monitoring W8RD (last heard 4 mins ago). Automatic refresh in 5 minutes. Small markers are the 51 transmitters ([show logbook](#)) heard ([distance chart](#)) at W8RD (0 reports, 14 countries last week).

There are 1613 active monitors: 1596 on 10m, 158 on 15m, 156 on 20m, 136 on 17m, 126 on 12m, 116 on 30m, 104 on 40m, 56 on 80m, 38 on 160m, 30 on 60m, 24 on 2m, 21 on 6m, 4 on 600m, 4 on 2200m, 1 on 11m, 1 on 10Ghz, 1 on 23cm. [Legend](#)



WSJT-X v2.5.4 by K1JT, G4WJS, K9AN, and IV3NWW

File Configurations View Mode Decode Save Tools Help

Band Activity

UTC	dB	T	Freq	Message
103400	7	14.5	1520	& WA4CQG KV5W EM22
103400	8	14.5	1520	& WA4CQG KV5W EM22
104200	4	0.8	1511	& AD4TJ K2DRH R EN41
104415	-2	11.7	1512	& CQ K2IL EL97
104415	-1	11.7	1511	& CQ K2IL EL97
104415	0	13.6	1514	& CQ K2IL EL97
104515	-4	12.4	1526	& VA3LX K1SIX -02
104515	-3	13.4	1526	& VA3LX K1SIX -02
104545	3	0.7	1528	& VA3LX K1SIX -02
104545	4	1.9	1527	& VA3LX K1SIX -02
104545	5	6.4	1526	& VA3LX K1SIX -02
104545	6	7.1	1526	& VA3LX K1SIX -02
104545	7	7.1	1528	& VA3LX K1SIX -02
104545	8	7.6	1527	& VA3LX K1SIX -02
104545	9	8.2	1526	& VA3LX K1SIX -02
104545	10	9.6	1527	& VA3LX K1SIX -02
104615	5	5.3	1490	& N4HB K2IL R-08
105030	6	13.8	1510	& VE3NEA K2IL EL97
105145	-2	3.4	1500	& CQ K2IL EL97
105145	1	4.2	1498	& CQ K2IL EL97
105245	-1	6.0	1530	& K2DRH K2IL +00
105245	0	10.2	1524	& K2DRH K2IL +00
105415	-2	1.9	1523	& K2DRH VE3NEA FN03
105415	-1	3.9	1523	& K2DRH VE3NEA FN03
105430	-4	8.4	1513	& N2NT K2DRH R EN41
105715	4	1.1	1558	& WDOEMR W2OR EL99

Tx Messages

UTC	dB	T	Freq	Message
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Log QSO Stop **Monitor** Erase Decode Enable Tx Halt Tx Tune  Menus

6m 50.260 000  Tx event/1st

DX Call: NA4DA DX Grid: EL89

Az: 354 B: 15 El: 18 167 km

Lookup Add

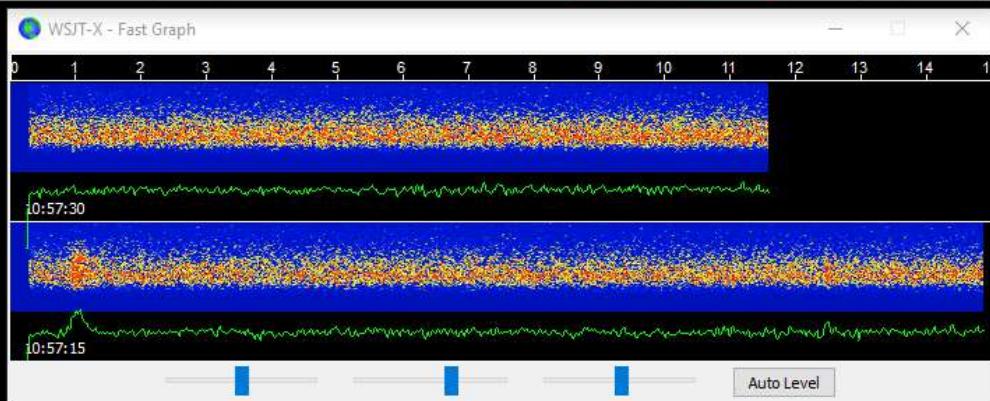
2022 Aug 13 10:57:41

Sh  Auto Seq  SWL

Generate Std Msgs

Next	Now	Pwr
NA4DA W8RD EL88	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="button" value="Tx 1"/>
NA4DA W8RD +00	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="button" value="Tx 2"/>
NA4DA W8RD R+00	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="button" value="Tx 3"/>
NA4DA W8RD RRR	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="button" value="Tx 4"/>
NA4DA W8RD 73	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="button" value="Tx 5"/>
CQ W8RD EL88	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="button" value="Tx 6"/>

Receiving 32% MSK144 0 11/15 WD:3m



# Meteor Scatter

## MSK144

Shower	Activity Period
Quadrantids (QUA)	Dec 26-Jan 16
Lyrids (LYR)	Apr 15-Apr 29
eta Aquarids (ETA)	Apr 15-May 27
Southern delta Aquarids (SDA)	Jul 18-Aug 21
Perseids (PER)	Jul 14-Sep 01
Orionids (ORI)	Sep 26-Nov 22
Leonids (LEO)	Nov 03-Dec 02
Geminids (GEM)	Nov 19-Dec 24
Ursids (URS)	Dec 13-Dec 24



# Ping Jockey Central.



<a href="#">Relief page</a>	<a href="#">Skeds in-progress</a>	<a href="#">CQ Announcements</a>	<a href="#">splat-65 Link</a>
<a href="#">Refresh</a>	<a href="#">Look back</a>	<a href="#">Distance/Bearing Locator</a>	<a href="#">Who's Earwiggling?</a>
<a href="#">Update User details</a>	<a href="#">AAIYN Callsign database</a>	Ray, WSRD FL EL88oa	Refreshed 13Aug 11:20

This page is to be used only for the purposes of discussing matters related to amateur radio meteor scatter communications. Any non-meteor scatter use is strictly prohibited.

That means **DO NOT USE THIS PAGE TO WORK splat-65 or for General chit-chat.**

Remember, in North America, 50.260MHz and 144.140MHz are calling not operating frequencies.

Exchanging any contact details on here before you're complete, invalidates the contact, and, if it's not HIGH-SPEED METEOR SCATTER, it doesn't belong here!

Enter your message here

Go!

DDMMM UTC

13Aug 11:20 N5B0 Justin, calling you from EM40 ([W5ADD/6M](#) Parker LA EM40wl )  
 13Aug 11:19 KC9ELU - Answering on 2 Mike ([WA2FZW/6M/2M](#) John NJ FN20tp )  
 13Aug 11:19 N1SV - tnx 2m q - ur best +13 ([KC9ELU](#) Mike IN EM79hj )  
 13Aug 11:18 Tnx new grid ([N1SV](#) Les MA FN42ep )  
 13Aug 11:18 111800 8 7.6 1599 & N1SV KC9ELU 73 ([N1SV](#) Les MA FN42ep )  
 13Aug 11:18 wow your killing it andy ([K0TPP/2/6/222](#) Larry mo EM48rk )  
 13Aug 11:17 and another! ([N1SV](#) Les MA FN42ep )  
 13Aug 11:17 111700 5 11.4 1437 & WA2FZW K2DRH RRR - Thanks again Bob - Best ~Plus~14 - Looks like 2M Es! ([WA2FZW/6M/2M](#) John NJ FN20tp )  
 13Aug 11:17 full frame burn on 2m here ([N1SV](#) Les MA FN42ep )  
 13Aug 11:16 N2NT Andy, nice rocks on 222 on you ([K0TPP/2/6/222](#) Larry mo EM48rk )  
 13Aug 11:16 N2NT loud here on 222 Andy (N0AKC Charlie WI EN44gu )  
 13Aug 11:15 NX3B Tom are you here? ([W05S/6/2](#) Brad TX EM13ci )  
 13Aug 11:15 N4QWZ running 222085 ([N2NT/6M2M/KW](#) Andy NJ FN20si )  
 13Aug 11:13 N2NT calling 222.085 QWZ 1st running now ([N4QWZ/6/2/222](#) Todd TN EM66ok )  
 13Aug 11:13 222085 ([N2NT/6M2M/KW](#) Andy NJ FN20si )  
 13Aug 11:12 watching ([K0TPP/2/6/222](#) Larry mo EM48rk )  
 13Aug 11:12 wq0p tnx ([N2NT/6M2M/KW](#) Andy NJ FN20si )  
 13Aug 11:12 N2NT Andy, wathing too on 222 ([K0TPP/2/6/222](#) Larry mo EM48rk )  
 13Aug 11:12 111115 20 0.5 1517 & W00P N2NT RRR thanks for the contact!!! ([W00P/6/2/222](#) Greg KS EM19wf )  
 13Aug 11:11 N2NT, will be listening in on 222.085 as well ([W0PN/2/222](#) Dan MO EM39rk )  
 13Aug 11:10 stop cq ([K7ULS/6N2](#) Mike UT DN41bh )



# CONTESTING AND AWARDS

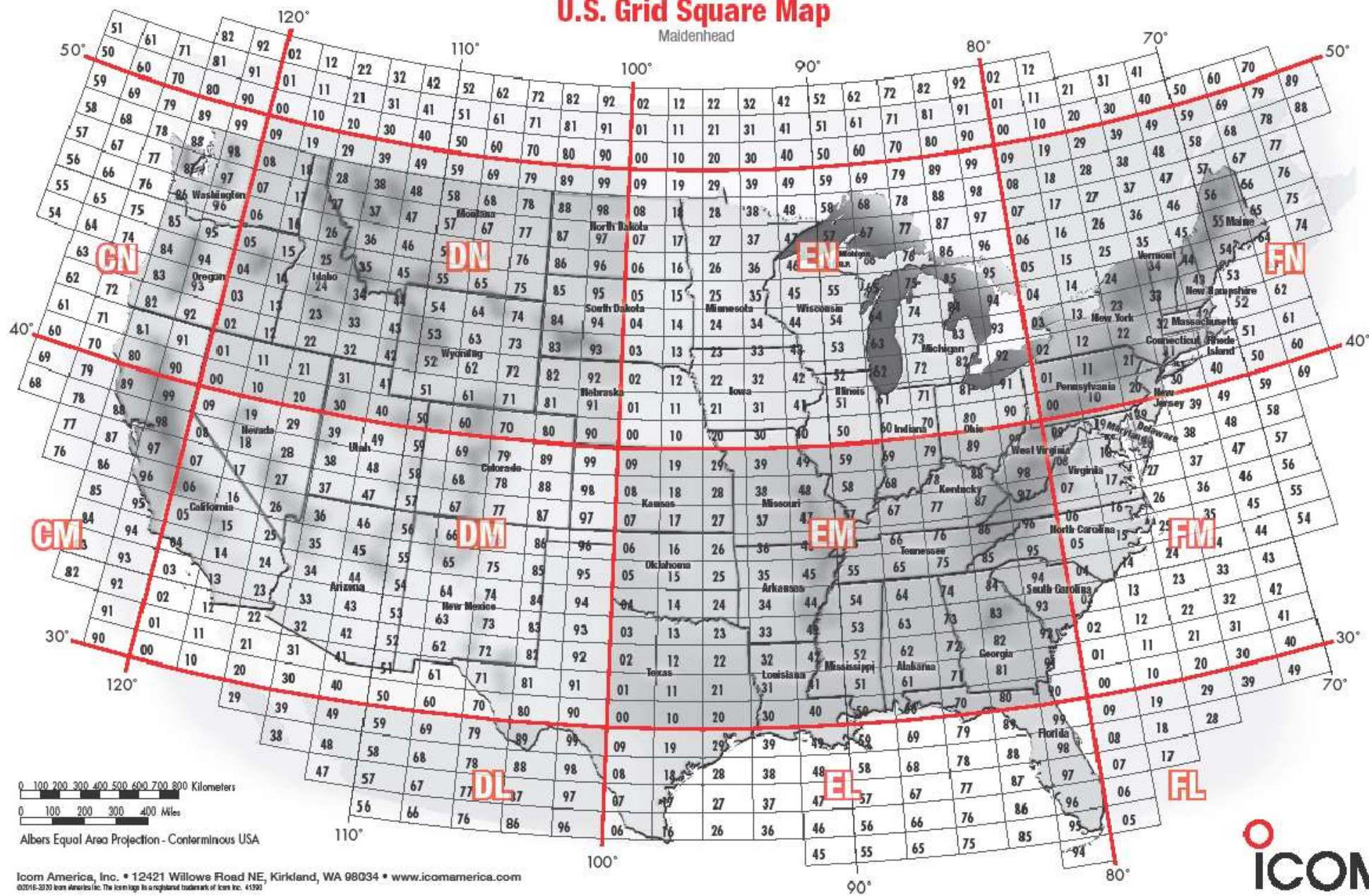


ARRL January VHF Contest  
ARRL June VHF Contest  
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest  
ARRL September VHF Contest

All modes are allowed  
CW – SSB - Digital

# U.S. Grid Square Map

Maidenhead



0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 Kilometers

0 100 200 300 400 Miles

Albers Equal Area Projection - Conterminous USA

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## The Fred Fish Memorial Award

The Fred Fish Memorial Award was created in honor of Fred Fish, W5FF (SK), who was the first amateur to have worked and confirmed all 488 Maidenhead grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States on 6 Meters. The award will be given to any amateur who can duplicate W5FF's accomplishment.



VUCC  
125  
50 MHz

VUCC  
150  
50 MHz

VUCC  
175  
50 MHz

VUCC  
200  
50 MHz

VUCC  
225  
50 MHz

VUCC  
250  
50 MHz



# VHF/UHF Century Club

# VUCC Award

50 MHz

Presented to

100 Grid Locators

**Ray Dabkowski, W8RD**

For submitting confirmation of two-way communication with amateur stations in 2° longitude x 1° latitude grid squares on the frequency band indicated. This outstanding achievement has earned the above membership in the exclusive VHF/UHF Century Club (VUCC).

Certificate #3461

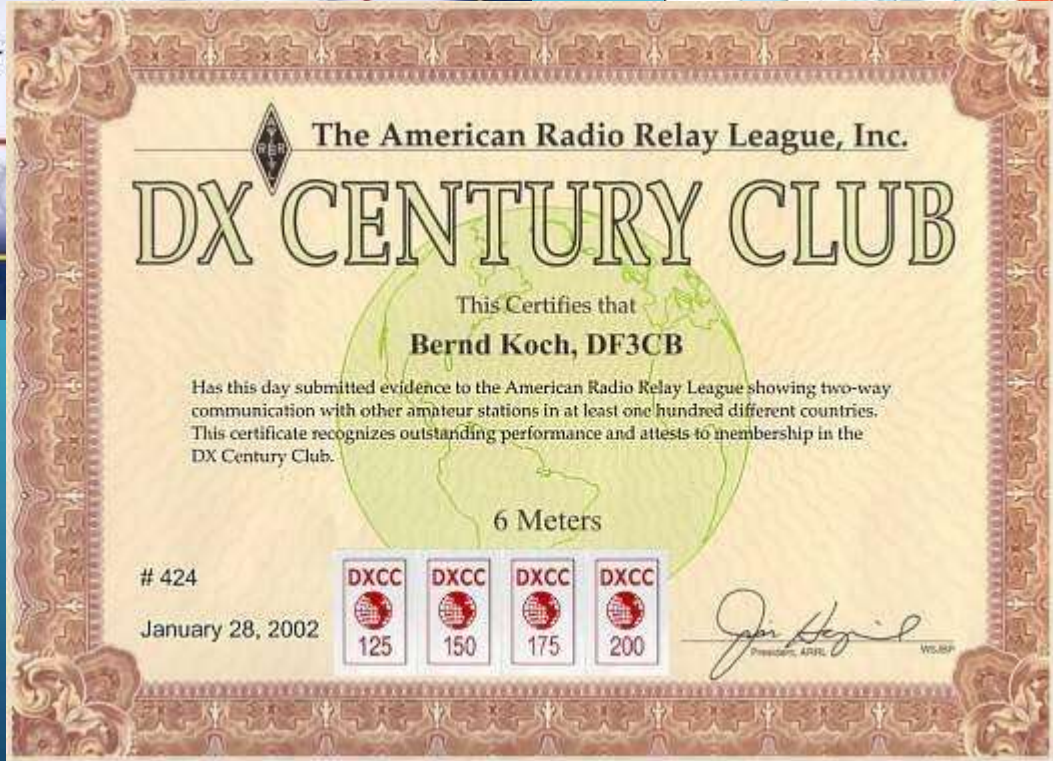
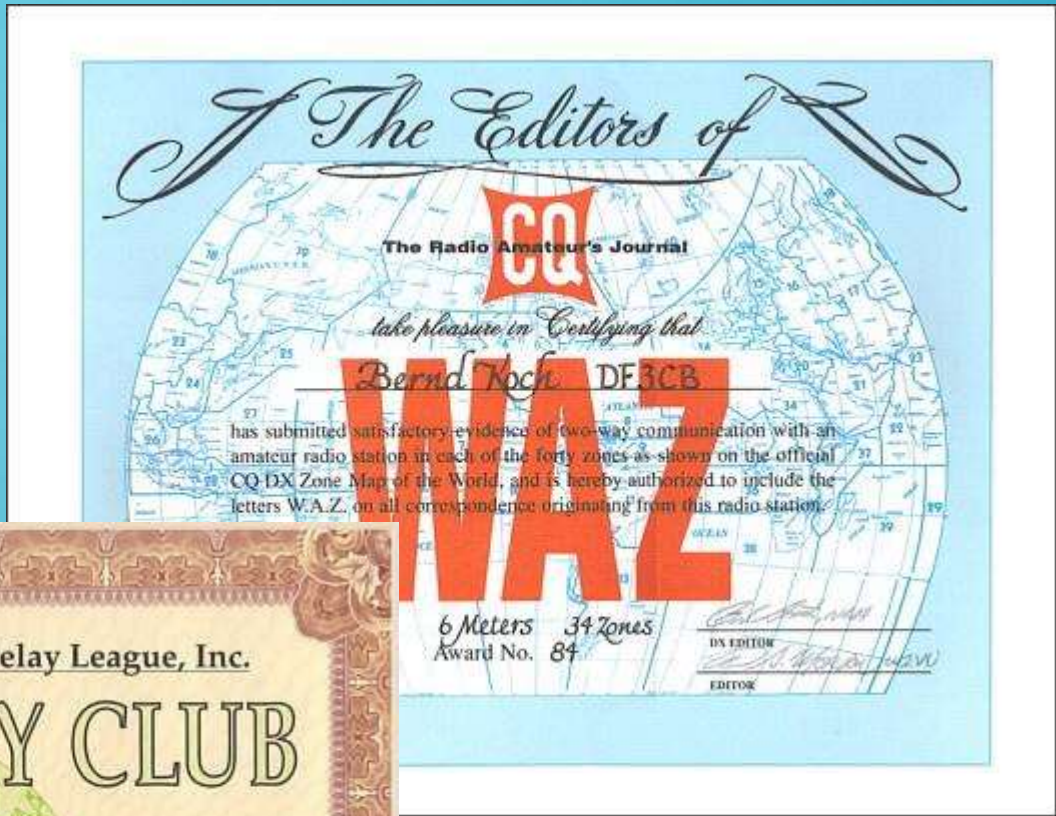
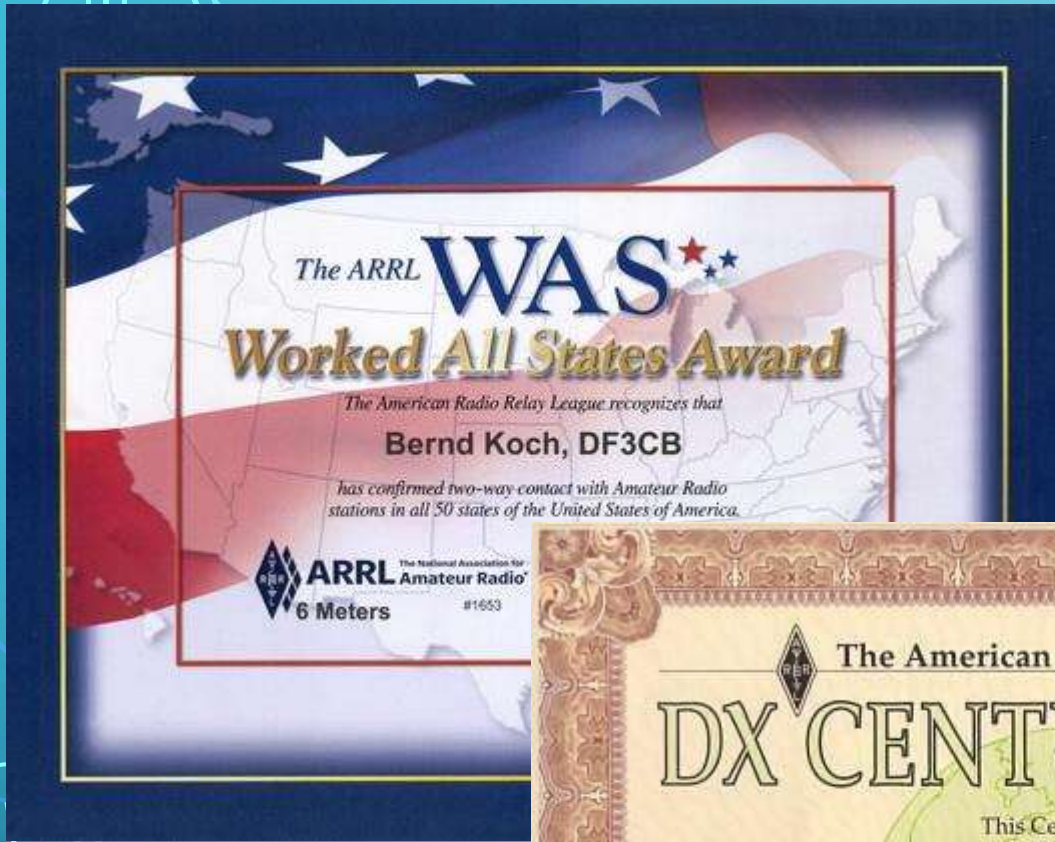
June 10, 2022

*Ray Dabkowski* K5UR

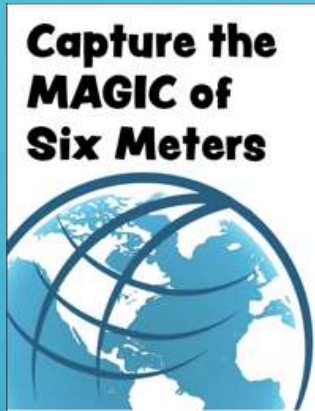
**ARRL** The national association for  
AMATEUR RADIO

ARRL, Prescott

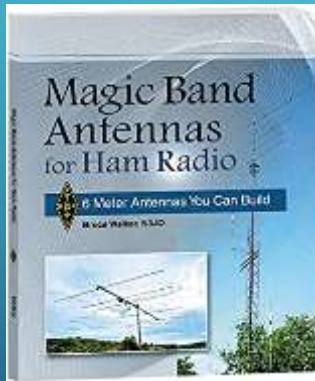




# RESOURCES



Free eBook from K5ND  
(see [K5ND.net](http://K5ND.net))



ARRL Book  
"Magic Band Antennas"

YouTube is your  
friend

What's your favorite band?

