

QSL Managers Message

I hear this question all the time..." **What is the best radio to buy?"**

The answer is..." All radios are good. They all do the same thing and they do it well."

Well, that wasn't helpful was it? Let me ask you a question, "What do you plan on doing with the radio?" That will have some bearing on which one you chose to buy.

I went into a very long and detailed description of a number of very popular radios and then realized that all I was doing was rewriting what has already been written about them. So, I erased what I had written, and I'll keep this simple...

If you want a small radio that doesn't have a lot of buttons and dials...look at the Yaesu.

If you want a big radio that has a lot of buttons and dials, then...look at the Kenwood.

If you want something in between then...look at the Icom.

A good rule of thumb is...the more buttons and dials there are, the fewer menus there will be.

So, which HF radio did I get? I got the Icom 7300. I got it for several reasons. First, I've only heard good things about the radio from other hams. I liked the touch screen. I liked the fact that it had a memory slot where I could record things for future use. It is easy to use and very intuitive. I seldom have to look at the manual.

The next question is..." **What is the best antenna to buy?"**

The answer is...

"There is no best antenna."

"All antennas are a tradeoff."

"A good antenna can make a bad radio good, and a bad antenna can make a good radio bad."

At home I use 4 antennas. When operating from my vehicle I use 2 antennas.

At home I have a 40' tower with a Hy-gain TH-5MM 5 element tri band beam antenna which is by far the best antenna I have. It works on 10, 15 & 20 meters and with the rotator I can turn it to point in the direction of the station I want to contact. I use this antenna as often as possible.

My 2nd HF antenna is a G5RV up about 35' and strung between 2 trees. This antenna works on everything from 6 – 80 meters. It works well, but I have to use a Tuner with it to get the SWR down to acceptable levels. Don't get nearly as good reception using it as I do with the beam.

My 3rd HF antenna is an EFLW that I use when I want to get on 160 meters. Don't use this very often but it does work.

My last antenna is a VHF/UHF vertical antenna that I use with my 2-meter and 70 CM radio. It works great hitting the repeater about 5 miles away. I'm not much of a VHF/UHF guy so I seldom use it.

When I'm operating from my vehicle, I use an Eagle One HF antenna. It is nothing more than a EFLW vertical and with a tuner it will work on all bands from 6 meters to 80 meters. I use this while operating POTA Activation's. The reason I use this antenna is because I can set it up and take it down all by myself...I don't need any help. It doesn't require any radials and I've never used any with it. One of the top Activators in the POTA program uses this antenna and she always sounds great whenever I contact her. It didn't cost a lot of money...actually the tuner costs more than the antenna.

I have heard a lot of stories from other hams doing POTA activations that the park rangers didn't like wires in trees, wires on the ground, stakes pounded in the ground, etc. With the Eagle One antenna I am completely self-contained in the vehicle. Nothing is touching the ground except the tires on my vehicle. So... the rangers don't have anything to complain about and I've never had any difficulty in any of my Activations.

The last antenna I use is a VHF/UHF vertical with a mag mount that I use every once in a while, when I want to make a 2 meter contact in a POTA park.

So, you can see that I use multiple antennas because there isn't one that will do everything I want to do.

You must ask yourself a question about the antenna that you are using..." Does it do what I want it to do?" If the answer is Yes...then it is a good antenna. If the answer is No... then you need to get a better one.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

73

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