

Operating from Distant Locales

By

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AB4U

Background

Since 2005 Operations from:

- British Virgin Islands [twice]
 - VP2V / AB4U
- Belize [twice]
 - V31BU with V31JM & V31CL
- South Texas
 - WA5FAC
- Florida Panhandle [several times]
 - AB4U/P
- Sint Maarten [Now Country St. Martin]
 - PJ7A & PJ7 / AB4U

Purpose

- Most trips with my good friend John Mathis, WA5FAC
- Each year since the 1990s, John & I spend a week or two together traveling / exploring
- Most trips originated as his idea..."Why don't we..."
- For years we spent time cruising the Chesapeake Bay. In the last 10 years we have broadened our adventure destinations.
- Trips were always for vacation purposes such as a desire to sail someplace new or just because we wanted to see some place that we had heard about
- Ham Radio came along for fun never as the primary objective

Licensing Issues

- If local license / call desired or needed
 - START EARLY; At least 6 months; 9 months would be better
 - That you are in a hurry to get licensed is not their problem!
- ARRL website is good source of info
 - So are Hams who have done it recently
 - Things change – Contacts & Rules
 - Another Reason to Start Early
- Follow Instructions and Follow Up
- Nothing more than CEPT May be Needed
 - You can print out that authority yourself
 - Print the needed documents at home before leaving on the trip and keep them with the radio

British Virgin Islands

- No local calls issued to visiting Hams
 - Call issued was VP2V / AB4U
- Start early
 - “What’s your hurry mon?”
- Our operation was always from sailboats so did not count for DXCC
- Interesting what you can hear

Belize

- Local License Required
- Send request for info & why you want to be licensed
- You will need:
 - Application [letter request]
 - Copy of US Ham Radio License
 - Copy of US Passport
 - Application dollars
 - International Money orders are a pain because you have to deal with the US Post Office
- You will need an Import Authorization to get your radio through Belize Customs

Belize

- 1st operation from “resort” in Dangriga
 - WA5FAC, W4KZK, W4LKF, AB4U
 - FT-897D, FT-817, dipoles & long wires
 - Operated a lot but not constantly; good results
- 2nd operation from Placentia and on & off from a sailboat; stuck ashore due to bad WX
 - WA5FAC, W4KZK, AB4U
 - FT-857D, FT-817, dipole & vertical
- V3 call is like having an amplifier!

South Texas

- Stayed at private lodge in Kenedy County
 - Nothing higher than a Mesquite tree
- Storms, snakes, African wildlife and good food
 - Site of my award winning photo in QST and 2012 Calendar
- Famous King Ranch nearby
- Landscape not attractive but if you own land there, you're set...natural gas wells & cattle [25 to 1]
- Nothing in Kenedy County...almost an hour to the grocery store or restaurant
- Elecraft KX1 & Dipole

Panama City Beach

- 3rd floor condo near beach
- Tried many antenna ideas, settled on 20m dipole hung vertically
- Also used remote base [rigs in Roanoke]
- Site of GMRA Radio Camp
 - WA5FAC, W4KZK, AB4U
 - Dedicated week to fix, rebuild & work on older radios
 - Also Operate newer rigs, eat good sea food & explore
- Great Operating results with vertical dipole plus VHF & UHF antennas using FT-897 & TS-830s

Sint Maarten / Saint Martin

- PJ7 / AB4U in Oct 2011
 - CEPT license
 - French Side of same island has same licensing scheme but different call
- FT-817 & end-fed 20m Zepp
 - Time share condo; Antenna Limitations
 - Not Practical as guest in someone else's condo
 - Made only 6 contacts...3 CW & 3 PSK31
- Also guest operated PJ7A in 2010
 - Only made 10 contacts due to circumstances

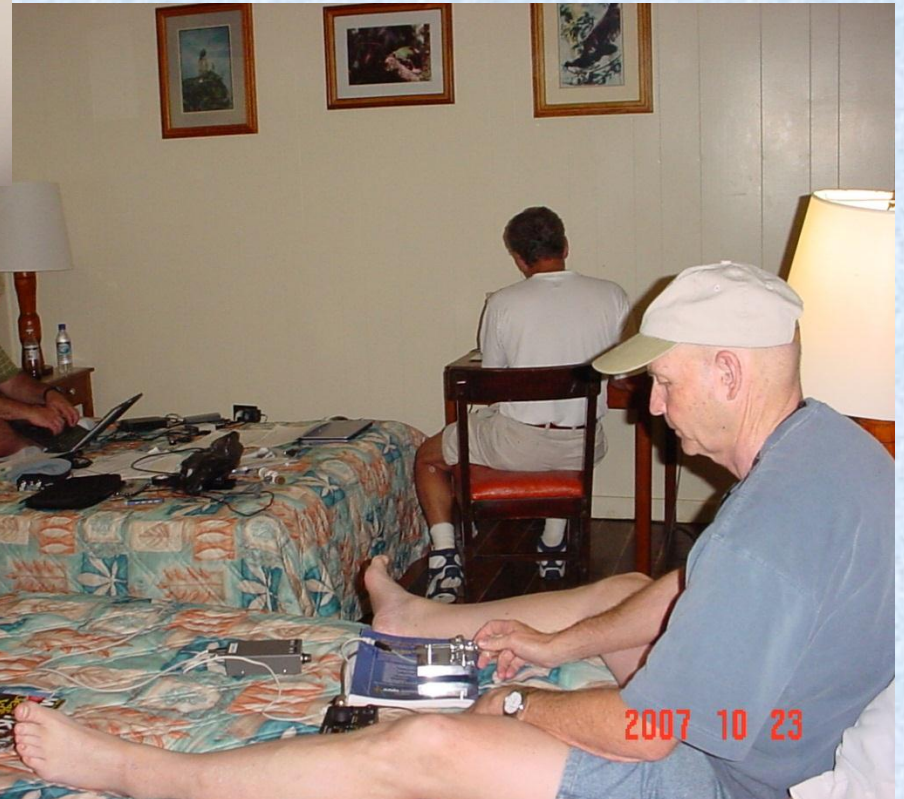
Photos

- British Virgin Islands
- Belize
- Kenedy County, Texas
- PCB Radio Camp
- Saint Martin

Goat Mountain Radio Association
W5CUI





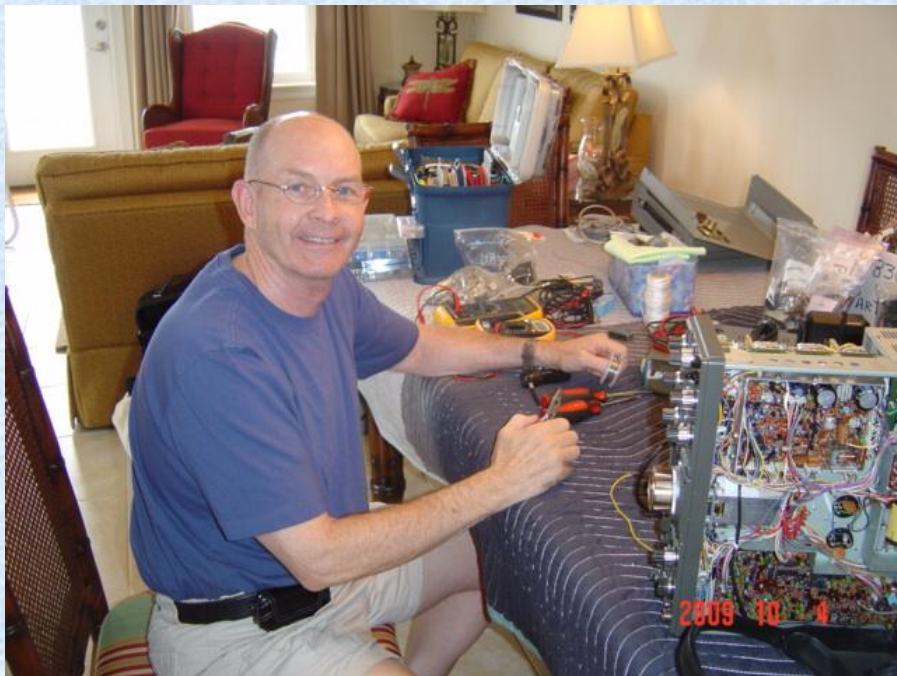






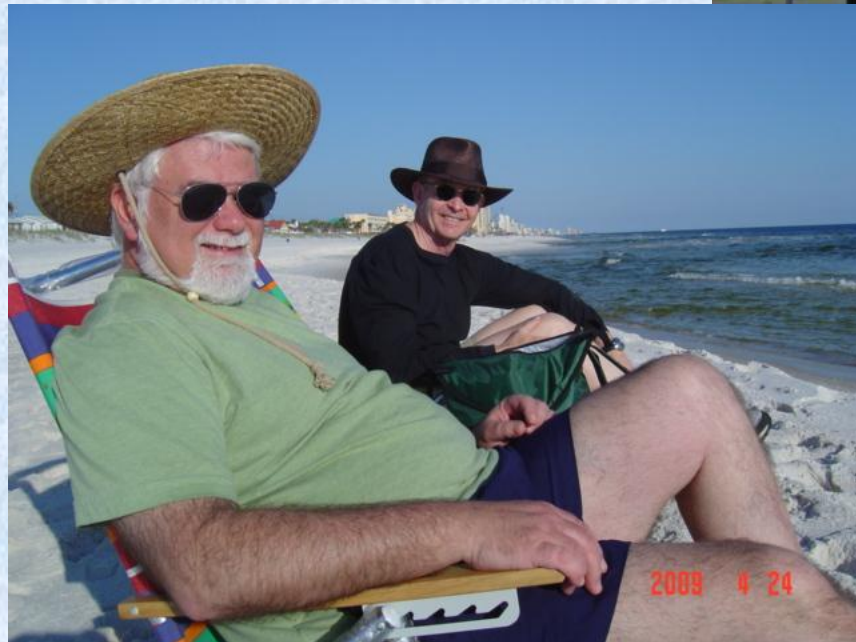






How to wash and dry a radio!













PJ7 / AB4U

Sint Maartin [St. Martin]

Confirming QSO with:

PSE QSL TNX

Call	Frequency	Mode	RPT	Date	Time UTC

Info:

St. Maartin, now Country St. Martin, is at 18N 63W.
I was there on vacation from 10 to 31 October 2011
Using a Yaesu FT-817 [5W] into end-fed 20M Zepp.

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Verified by:

2011 10 15

THE END

