Albuquerque Duke City Hamfest and Convention
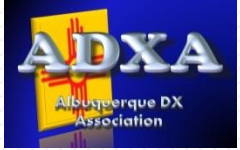
"It's a HamFiesta!"

# High Frequency University
# the Senior Year 4.0

# 6-Computers

# Computers

- Why (Not) Use Them?
- Using this Tool Wisely
- Browser Power
- Touch Typing
- On-Line Receivers

# Computers

- Hard to go Digital Without a PC
- Electronic Logging
- Logbook of The World
- Calendar for DX, Contests, etc.
- Electronic Manuals/Publications

# Computers

- Programming Those Darn HT's
- Shack Automation
- Desktop vs. Laptop
- New vs. Used
- Components Lineup

# Desktop vs. Laptop

- Uses Less Space
- Has Multiple Monitor Outputs
- Uses a Larger Keyboard
- More Bang for the Buck
- Leave Connected "Permanently"
- Consider Refurbished PC
- Multiple Internal & External Slots
- Go with Internal USB Card(s)

# New vs. Used

- Lots of "Off Lease" Available
- Power User vs. "Normal"?
- Type A or B Personality?
- $150 vs. $1,500?
- Loggers & HT Programmers Don't Need Much Power

# Using This Tool Wisely

- BACK-UP "Resistance is Futile"
- Every PC Will Fail
- Solid State Drives Fail
- Bad Stuff Happens on AC Line
- You Spilled What into the PC?

# Back-up Strategy

- If It's Important, Back-up NOW!
- Use an Automated System
- OneDrive Does Work But, No-No for Live Databases N1MM+
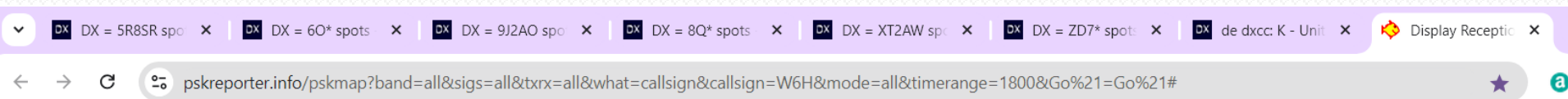- Test Any B/U System!!!!!

# Browser Power

- I Supported MS Windows
- I Had to Use Internet Explorer
- I Had to Manually Update PC's
- I Built My First PC (H8) in 1979
- I Use the Chrome Browser

# Browser Power

- Stop Fearing Cookies!
- Stop Cleaning the Cache Nightly
- Use Chrome's Features
- Passwords Are Safe
- Google Tells You if Compromised

# Browser Power

- Chrome Crosses Devices
- Bookmarks & Passwords on All
- Calendar, E-Mail, Contacts " "
- Use Multiple Tabs

# Browser Power

- CNTRL+H for History (Handy)
- Use Multiple Profiles
  Work, Personal, Amateur Radio
- A Single Letter Brings Up
  C=Calendar
- N=NG3K DXpeditions
- A=Amazon
- D=DXWatch
- E=Elecraft

# Browser Power

- Use Bookmarks Efficiently
- One Instance for DXWatch
  All Current DX in Multiple Tabs
  CNTRL+PAGEUP/PAGEDOWN
  Moves Rapidly from Tab to Tab
  See How Quickly This is Done
- Have Other "Standard" Windows

# Browser Power

- Long List of Keyboard Shortcuts

TRL + T. Open a New Tab.
CTRL + W. Close current tab.
**CTRL + F5 Refresh Tab**
CTRL + TAB. Switch between open tabs.
CTRL + N. Open a new browser window.
F11 Go Fullscreen.  And Many More

# Touch Typing

- Eyes on the Screen
- Index Fingers on the Home Keys
- HUGE Difference in Rapid Logging
- Much Easier to Copy CW
- Much Easier/Faster for Everything!
- Watch TV While Typing (Football)

# Touch Typing

- Essential Skill for Contesting
- Increases Logging Accuracy
- More Comfortable
- Better Ergonomics
- Better, Faster, Cheaper (?) Intel

# On-Line Receivers

- Anybody Have Any Noise on RX?
- Are Some Stations Difficult Copy?
- Do You Participate in Nets?
- Have You Heard "The Utah SDR"?
- Does Anyone Use their Own RX?

# WebSDR

- Software Defined Radio Receiver
- Many Simultaneous Listeners
- Each Tunes Independently
- First Used for EME
- 100 kbps Per Listener
- Does Not Support Internet Explorer

# WebSDR

If you don't get audio, try the following:
• At the top right, click the 4 vertical dots, and then Settings.
• At the bottom, click Advanced.
• Under "Privacy and security," click Site settings.
• Select "Sound"
• Select "Add" and enter "http://*"

# WebSDR

- Works With Many Smartphones
- Use FAQ if Having Problems
- Decode Digital by Using a Virtual Audio Cable to Application

# WebSDR

- Fill In for Propagation Gaps
- Overcome Your Local Noise
- Record and Playback Your TX Audio
- Record Other's TX Audio
  Explain What You Are Hearing
  Provide Technical Assistance

# Sample of Receivers

| Location and URL | Frequency range |
|---|---|
| WebSDR at the University of Twente, Enschede, NL http://websdr.ewi.utwente.nl:8901/ JO32KF; 483 users | 0.000 - 29.160 MHz |
| Little Paradise Farm - Pardinho - Brazil http://appr.org.br:8905/ GG56TV; 35 users | -0.024 - 2.024 MHz |
| | 3.494 - 4.006 MHz |
| | 6.894 - 7.406 MHz |
| | 13.994 - 14.506 MHz |
| | 20.994 - 21.506 MHz |
| | 26.966 - 29.014 MHz |
| | 143.976 - 146.024 MHz |
| | 10489.500 - 10490.000 MHz |
| * RD3MK * Yaroslavl * Regional branch of the Union of Radio Amateurs of Russia http://websdr.srr76.ru/ LO07AQ; 22 users | 436.276 - 438.324 MHz |
| | 144.000 - 146.048 MHz |
| | 27.476 - 29.524 MHz |
| | 20.688 - 21.712 MHz |
| | 13.338 - 14.362 MHz |
| | 6.558 - 7.582 MHz |
| | 2.938 - 3.962 MHz |
| | 1.288 - 2.312 MHz |

Each Band Lists Antenna Too

# Troubleshooting PCs

- Same as Radios—Logic is Key
- So are Basic PC & Windows Knowledge
- PCs are Another Tool
- Don't Uninstall/Reinstall
- Windows Updates Sometimes Change Settings, Drivers, Privacy, etc. Check Your Documentation!

# References

- https://wa7ewc.wordpress.com/2018/01/27/selecting-a-computer-for-your-ham-shack/
- https://www.kb6nu.com/new-used-shack-computer-is-much-faster/