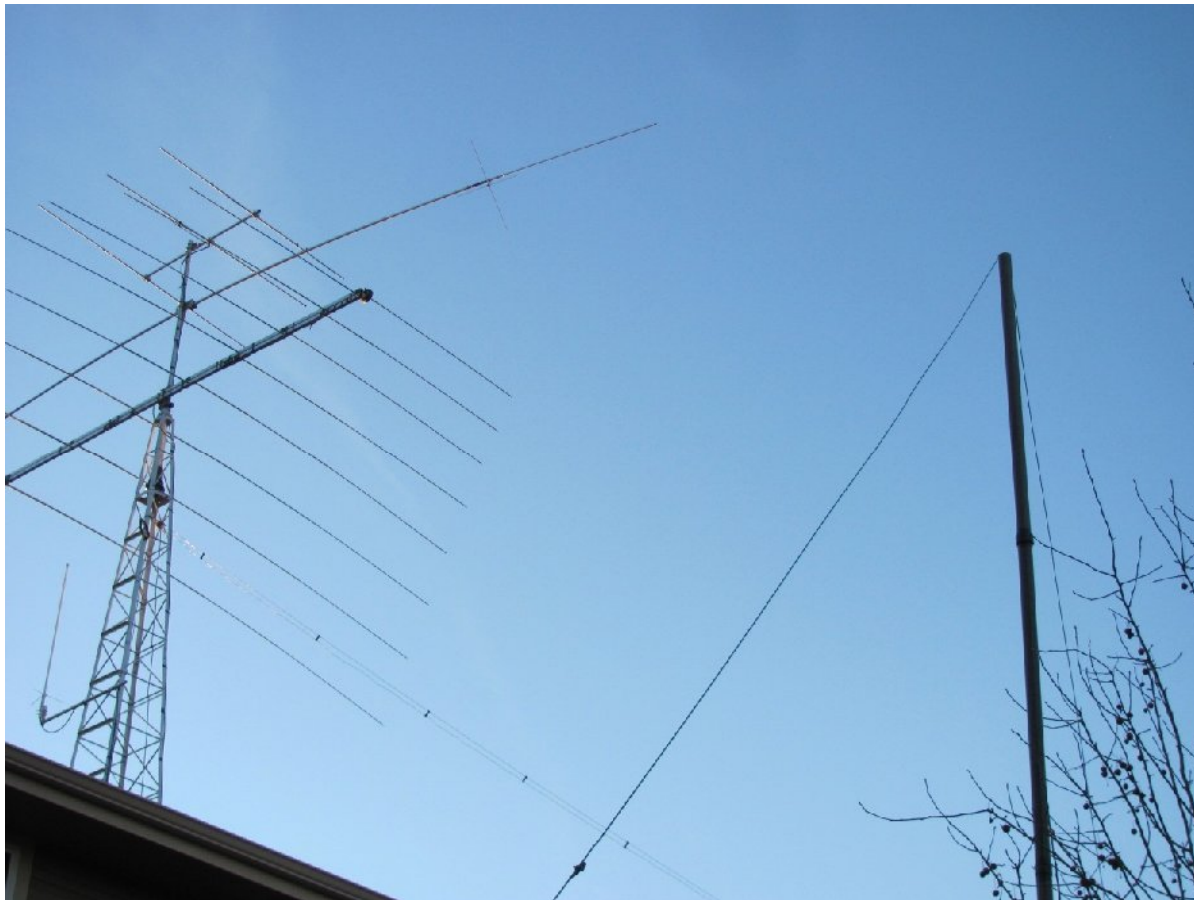


# ***“Doing A Lot With A Little”*** in Amateur Radio Contesting



**By Anna Veal W0ANT**

# Think Big When You're Small!

**KORF's QTH in Longmont, CO**



**W0ANT's QTH in Littleton, CO**



# W0ANT National Top Scores

2010 ARRL April Rookie Contest

2010 CQ WPX 10 Meter Low Power SOSB (A)



# Simple Station, No Amplifiers, mid-priced Rig, Small Yard, and Lots of Neighbors!



**Glen Martin Roof Top Tower with Tennadyne 10-20M Log Periodic 45 Feet Above Ground, 40 Meter Rotatable Dipole, Three Element 6 Yagi**



# Backyard Low Band Antennas

**Cushcraft MA160V 160M Vertical**



**K9AY RX Loop and Cushcraft  
MA8040V for 80 and 40 meters**



# What We have In Common?

- ✓ 12 Years Old
- ✓ In 7<sup>th</sup> Grade
- ✓ Love Football
- ✓ Play Basketball
- ✓ Love to Surprise People!
- ✓ Watch Tons of Reality Shows
- ✓ Licensed Ham



# What We May Not have In Common- Thinking What IS Possible with Your Small Station

- Breaking Pile Ups
- Running Stations on YOUR Frequency
- Earning Awards in Contesting





# Simple Steps I've Learned to Contest Success!

1. Speak Clearly and Loudly
2. Listen with Your Ears Wide Open
3. Be Familiar with Your Station's Equipment
4. Don't Get Frustrated
5. Find An Elmer Join Clubs
6. Learn About Propagation
7. Understand the Rules
8. Set Goals



***W0ANT Mobile during 2010 Colorado QSO Party***

# 1. Speak Clearly and Loudly

- ✓ New Multipliers
- ✓ New Countries
- ✓ Reduce Mistakes
- ✓ Gain Confidence
- ✓ Protect Frequency



My dogs got it down!

## 2. Listen with Your Ears Wide Open

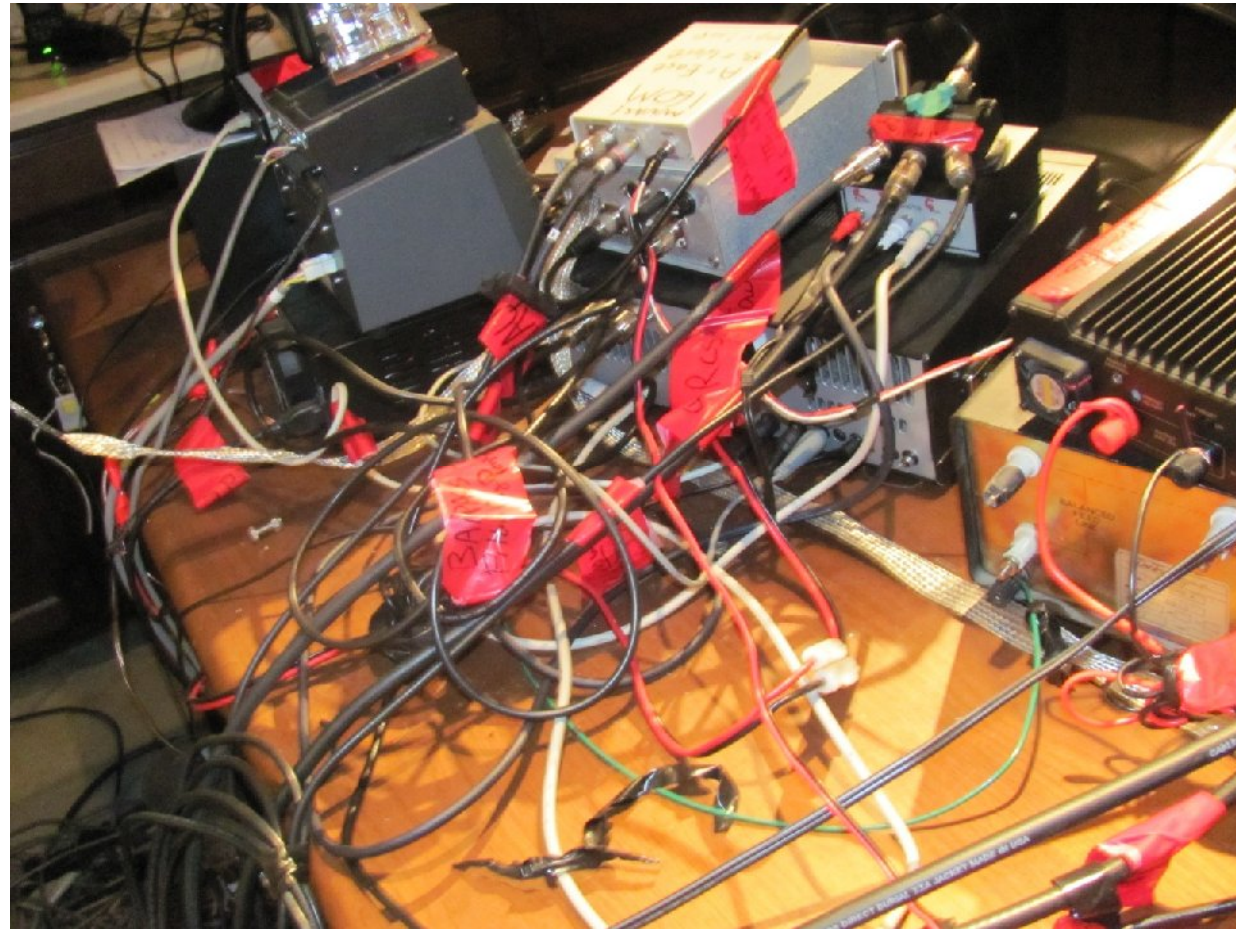
- Answer Quickly
- Be Accurate
- Have Comfortable Headphones
- Be In a Quiet Location



**Final Antenna Check at K0RF's for 2010 NAQP  
August SSB Test...I Worked Almost 700 QSO's  
in 10 Hours With These headphones!**

### 3. Understand your Station's Equipment-

- ❑ Ask questions about your equipment... there's no wrong questions
- ❑ Know how to fix potential problems!
- ❑ Make stuff such as switching bands and changing antennas as easy as possible-
- ❑ Make life as simple as you can-



*I label ALL my cables. It simplifies life.*

## 4. Don't Get Frustrated!!!!

- Think positive!
- Make a good, happy, first impression.
- Ignore Anti-contesting comments
- Contesting is suppose to be fun and exciting!



**Another rabbit and I am locked in this truck going to HRO!**

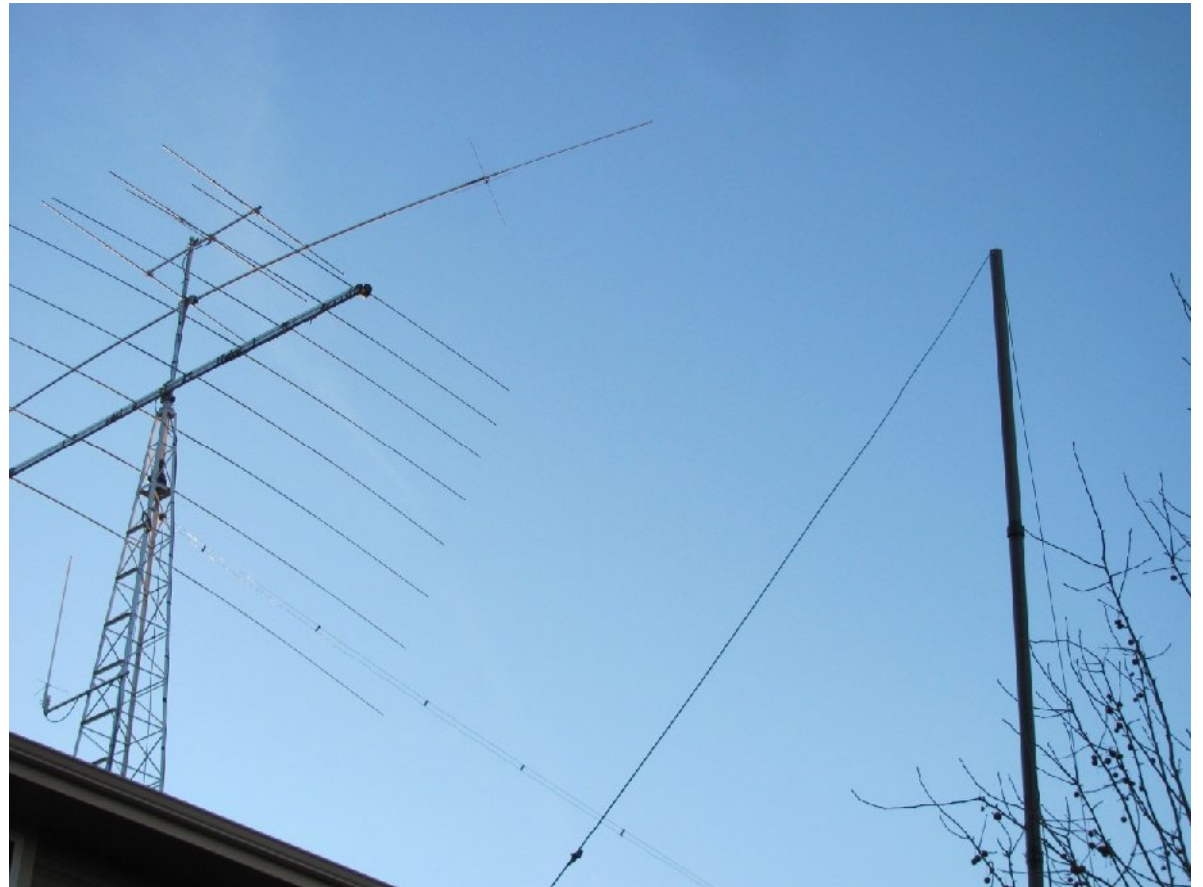
# *5<sup>th</sup>-Find An Elmer*



**Chuck, KORF, helping to train me for  
contesting . There are many Elmers to  
help you!**

## 6. Understand Propagation

- ✓ Study how radio waves work on different bands
- ✓ Understand which bands to focus on for each contest
- ✓ Look for activity on different bands
- ✓ Find a clear frequency to attempt a run, and stay on it for awhile
- ✓ If there is little activity, try a different band



**These are different antennas for different bands 70cm-160 meters**

## 7. Understand Contest Rules

- ✓ Practice before contest on exchanges
- ✓ Check contest rules and read them with your parents
- ✓ Make sure you stay in band with your license
- ✓ Make sure you are in your allowed power limits

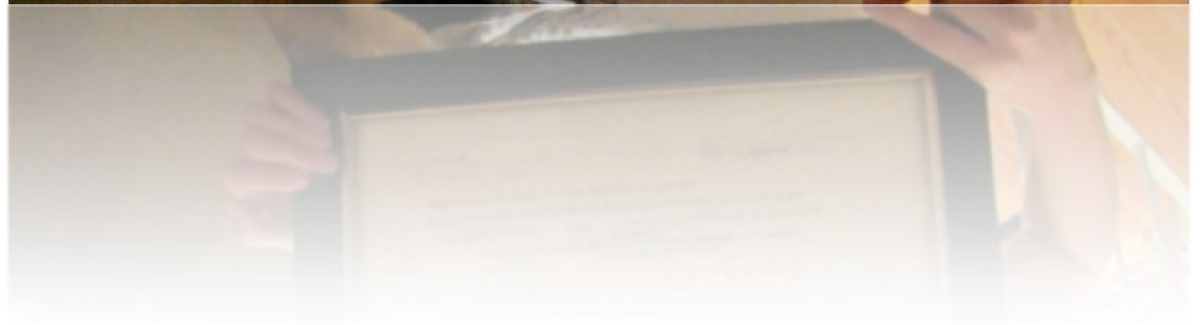


**Don't Get Caught Cheating!**



## 8. Set Goals

- Win by meeting your own goals
- Stay with your game plan
- Challenge yourself with every contest



# Conclusion

- ❖ Play Fair
- ❖ Have As Much Fun As Possible!
- ❖ And Have Confidence – Your Signal Will Be Heard!



**Working W1AW, ARRL HQ, is fun in Sweepstakes!**

# Helpful Contest Logging Software and/or Websites for Assisted Categories

Check with specific  
contest rules to see  
what is allowable- Not  
all contests allow  
assisted entrants!

- HamRadioDeluxe -  
computer control software
- Reverse Beacon  
<http://www.reversebeacon.net/main.php>
- DX Summit  
<http://www.dxsummit.fi/>
- DXFOR.ME
- [www.contesting.com](http://www.contesting.com)
- [www.eham.net](http://www.eham.net) reviews  
<http://www.eham.net/reviews/products/57>