

Advanced Contesting Techniques



N4YDU SO2R Home QTH

Definition (SO2R vs 2BSIQ)

- Classic SO2R is running on one radio and S&P on another
- 2BSIQ is actively running on 2 radios by interleaving QSOs and only TXing on one rig at a time.
- SO3R



Station Needs

- Reasonable Radios
 - Many good options for radios
 - It does not have to break the bank
- Reasonable Crossband Isolation
 - BPFs
 - Stubs
- Antennas and switching
 - Affordable?
 - Doable?
 - Finding the right mix for your wants
- RX/TX switching ability
 - YCCC, Double L, Microham, 4O3A, homebrew
 - PTT based with no CPU



Effective SO2R on a budget example

- Kenwood 590s used
- BPFs (kits or homebrew stuff)
- Used 2x6 switch or no 2x6 switch at all
- SO2R Mini Controller (under \$100)
- Wire antennas? Use a tribander and a triplexer?
- Used computer
- Scrounge for parts



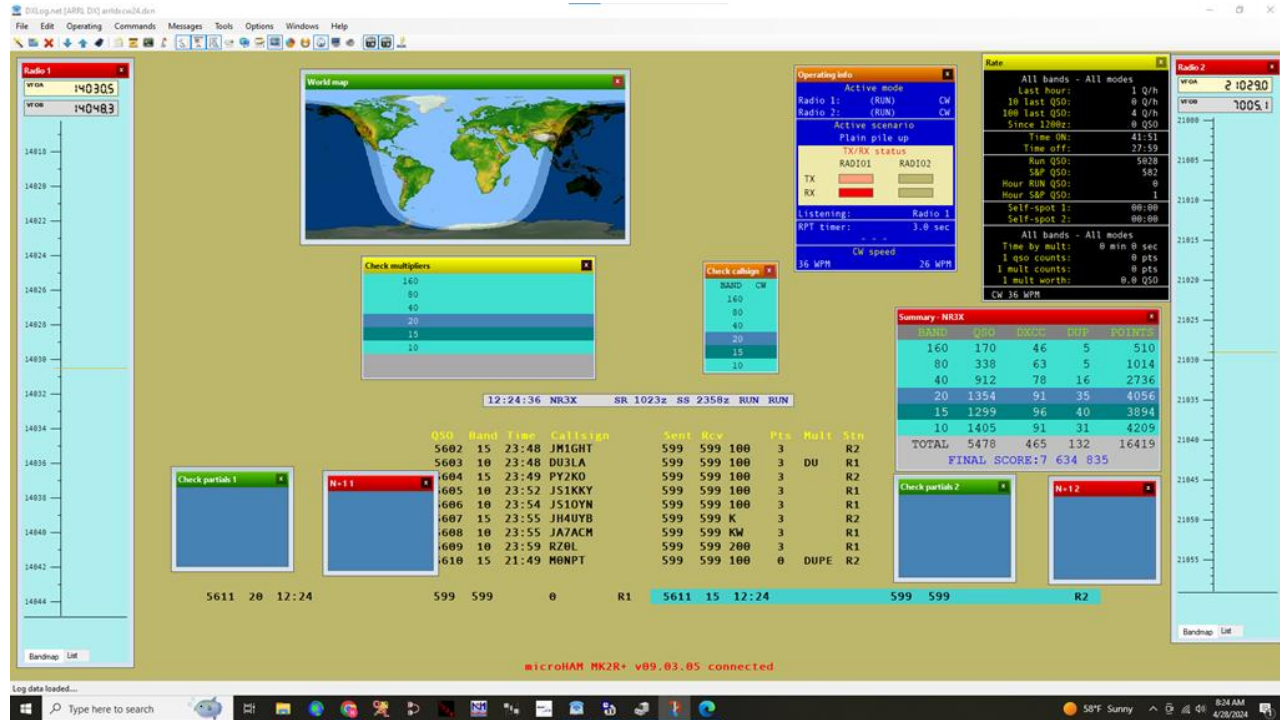
Antennas



- Simple can be very effective
 - Dipoles and loops can be great for a quick direction change
 - An old tribander at 25 to 30 feet fixed can be huge
- Split directions is great for contests such as WPX
- Do what you can - maximize your home QTH in a way you're comfortable

Software

- Big personal choice
- N1MM very effective
- DXLOG (my favorite)
- Wintest
- Writelog
- Others



Ergonomics



- Desk Height
- Chairs
- Arm reach to switching
- Monitors
 - Height?
 - How many?
- Keyboards (1 or multiple?)

Cutting Edge



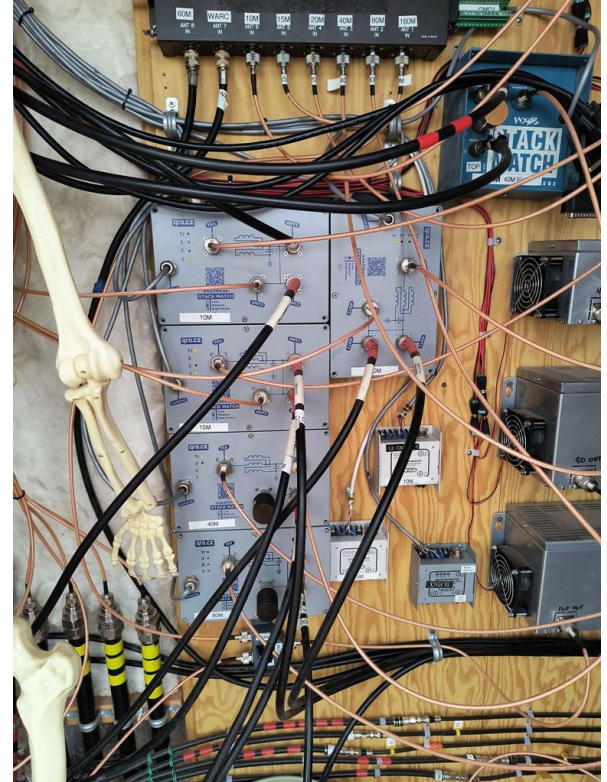
- SO3R is becoming more popular
- AI generated voice for SSB
- Incredible antenna switching ability with items like MOAS
- M/S in-band is becoming the norm

Multi OP Options

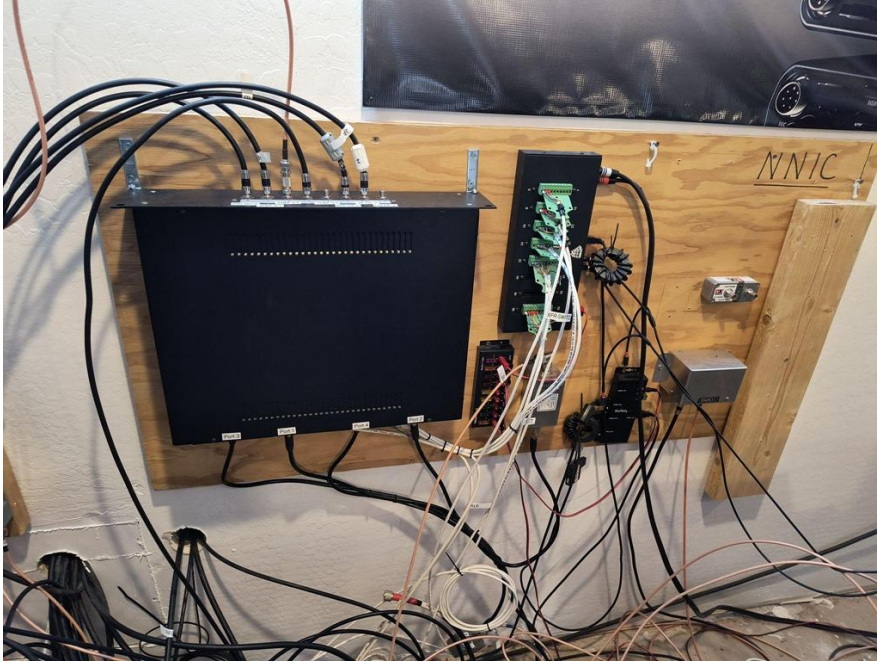
- In band - two ops per band
- Teamwork is essential
- Station setup exceptionally complex
 - RX antennas for each band
 - Audio sharing
 - Amplifier sharing
 - Interstation interference



A view of ND7K - Wickenburg



A view of ND7K - Wickenburg



A view of K3LR - West Middlesex, PA



How to improve?

SOAB HP

Call	OpMode	Remote	QSOs	Prefixes	Op Time	Score	Club
PJ4K(N6KT)	SO2R		6377	1443	36	30,512,235	NCCC
8P5A(W2SC)	2BSIQ		6383	1485	36	27,102,735	PVRC
E7DX(E77DX)	SO2R		5371	1557	36	24,122,601	BCC
CQ7X(CT1ILT)	2BSIQ		5668	1504	36	23,999,328	EACC
EW5A(EU1A)	SO2R		5000	1529	36	20,747,001	Belarus Contest Team
UN9L(@UP2L)			4243	1391	36	20,387,887	UNCC
WU2X(N5DX)	2BSIQ	x	4627	1392	36	19,417,008	Arkansas DX Association
KQ2M	SO2R		4839	1376	36.0	19,247,488	YCCC
V26K(AA3B)			4675	1312	36	18,036,064	FRC
DR0W(DJ5MW)	SO2R		4591	1481	36	17,974,897	BCC
EA2W	SO2R		4353	1425	36	17,855,250	EACC
RK4FD(@RT4F)	SO2R		5129	1493		17,735,347	
NN3W(@N4RV)	SO2R		4361	1389	36	17,295,828	PVRC
ND7K(N6MJ)	2BSIQ		5039	1396	36	16,898,580	AOCC
OM2VL(@OM8A)	SO2R		4097	1444	36:00	16,831,264	Slovak Contest Group
LY4A	SO2R		4166	1507	36	16,792,501	Baltic Contest Club
C4W(5B4WN)	SO2R	x	4103	1258	36	16,776,688	NCG
RM9I	SO2R		3998	1341	36	16,470,162	
9A44A(9A1UN)	SO2R		4380	1473	36	16,294,326	WWYC
CG3T(VE3DZ)	SO2R		3985	1276	36	16,207,752	CCO

- Mode preference?
- On air practice - weekly events for RTTY and CW
 - CWTs, MSTs, SSTs
 - Weekly Sprints (CW/RTTY)
 - Weekly RTTY test
 - QSO Parties
 - POTA Activations
- Software practice - Rufz, Morse Runner built into DXLOG and N1MM

Improvement and Goals

- Self-improvement goals
- Set mini goals
- Set practice goals
- Don't get discouraged...remember, this is for FUN!
- If you get frustrated, take a break and go with one radio for a little while



Questions?

