

Antenna Modeling

Based on ARRL Antenna Book SW

Part I: EZNEC

Part II: TLW, YW, HFTA

**Much cheaper (and faster)
than (re)building them!**



Larry Banks, W1DYJ

First licensed: 1962 (KN1VFX)

W1DYJ since 1966 – Amateur Extra

33 Blueberry Hill Road Woburn MA

“All models are wrong. Some are useful”

British Statistician George Box, 1976

<https://www.qsl.net/w1dyj/>

W1DYJ ~ Larry Banks



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Abstract: Antenna Modeling: TLW, YW, HFTA

This presentation will start with some history detailing why Larry has always been interested in understanding antennas. It will then introduce three applications: TLW, YW, and HFTA, from the ARRL Antenna Book. It will hopefully help you get a start at modeling your own antenna systems.

Larry was licensed in 1962 as novice KN1VFX and became W1DYJ in 1966. He was an engineer and manager for Hewlett-Packard Medical from 1969 to 1993. Moving to HP Education in 1993, he was responsible for technical and project management training. When Agilent split out of HP in 1999 he became Agilent Technology's global program manager for their Learning Management System. He "retired" in 2005 and then consulted for Avago Technologies (now Broadcom) on eLearning technologies through 2012.

Larry holds three degrees in EE from MIT. He holds 9BDXCC and 8BWAS, spending his time chasing DX and contesting in Woburn MA, traveling with his wife Maren, and attending as many jazz and classical concerts as they can. He is also the net manager and newsletter editor for the Minuteman Repeater Association, publications editor for HamXposition, and a member of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club.



Antenna Modeling ~ Agenda

- Why I became interested in antennas
- LW
- YW
- HFTA
- Appendix

The Goal:

You will learn some theory and gain some understanding about antennas.



An antenna story ~ the Gotham V80 (1962)

- New novice **KN1VFX**
- I knew nothing about antennas
- I built a HB 80m 807 CW [XTL] transmitter
- I fed my end-fed random wire out of my 2nd floor bedroom window [SWL]
- It didn't work

A 1962 QST Advertisement

- My first “real” antenna for 80M
- \$16.95 was “big bucks” for a sophomore in HS in 1962 [~\$130 today]

A beautiful example of
MARKETING!

IS K6INI THE WORLD'S CHAMPION DX OPERATOR?

Judge for yourself! Read his letter and count the DX he has worked—with only 65 watts and a \$16.95 Gotham V-80 Vertical Antenna.

2405 Bowditch, Berkeley 4, California
January 31, 1959

GOTHAM
1805 Purdy Avenue
Miami Beach 39, Florida
Gentlemen:

I just thought I would drop you a line and let you know how pleased I am with your V-80 vertical antenna. I have been using it for almost two years now, and am positively amazed at its performance with my QRP 65 watts input! Let me show you what I mean:

I have worked over 100 countries and have received very fine reports from many DX stations, including 599 reports from every continent except Europe (589)! I have also worked enough stations for my WAC, WAS, WJAD and ADXC awards, and I am in the process of working for several other awards. And all this with your GOTHAM V-80 vertical antenna!

Frankly, I fail to see how anyone could ask for better performance with such low power, limited space and a limited budget. In my opinion, the V-80 beats them all in its class.

I am enclosing a list of DX countries I have worked to give you an idea of what I have been talking about. Wishing you the best for 1959, I am

Sincerely yours,
Thomas G. Gabbert, K6INI (Ex-TI2TG)

List of 105 countries/stations worked with 65 watts and a V-80 vertical

BV1US	KG4AI	VK3YL
CE3DZ	KG6FAE	VK9XK
ZL5AA	KH6IJ	VK9AT
CO2WD	KL7BUZ	VK1ICJ
CN2BK	KM6AX	VP2KFA
CN8FB	KP4ACF	VP2AY
CR9AH	KP6AL	VP2DW
CT1CB	KR6BF	VP2MX
CX2FD	KS4AZ	VP2LU
DL1FF	KV4AA	VP2SV
DU7SV	KW6CA	VP5CP
EA1FD	KX6AF	VP5BH
E4N	KZ5CS	VP6TR
F8VQ	LA3SG	VP7NM
F8ZZ	LU2DFC	LU1ZS
FG7XE	LZ1KSP	VP9BK
FK8AL	OA4AU	VR2DA
FM7WT	OE9EJ	VR3B
FO8AD	OH2TM	VS1HC
G3DOG	OK1FF	VS2DW
GC8DO	ON4AY	VS6LN
G13WUJ	OG1AX	XE1PJ
GM3GJB	OZ2RK	XW8AI
GW3LJN	PA0FAB	YN1JW
HA5KBP	PJ5AA	YU3FS
HC4IM	PJ2ME	YV5HL
HC8LUX	PY2EW	ZC5AL
HE9LAC	PY8NE	ZE1JV
HP1LO	SM5AQB	ZK1BS
I1MV	SP6BY	KH6MG/ZK1
JA1ANG	TI2LA	ZK2AD
JZ0HA	UA1AU	ZL1ABZ
W1AW	UA1KKB	ZL3JA
K86BJ	UO2AB	ZM6AS
KC4AF	VE8OJ	ZS1OU

FACTS ON THE GOTHAM V-80 VERTICAL

- If K6INI can do it, so can you.
- Absolutely no guying needed.
- Radials not required.
- Only a few square inches of space needed.
- Four metal mounting straps furnished.
- Special B & W loading coil furnished.
- Every vertical is complete, ready for use.
- Mount it at any convenient height.
- No relays, traps, or gadgets used.
- Accepted design—in use for many years.
- Many thousands in use the world over.
- Simple assembly, quick installation.
- Withstands 75 mph wind-storms.
- Non-corrosive aluminum used exclusively.
- Omnidirectional radiation.
- Multi-band, V80 works 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6.
- Ideal for novices, but will handle a Kw.
- Will work with any receiver and xmitter.
- Overall height 23 feet.
- An effective modern antenna, with amazing performance. Your best bet for a lifetime antenna at an economical price.

73
GOTHAM



INDEXA

An antenna story ~ the Gotham V80

Radials not required ←

- I never worked anyone – Best DX was a 40M OO report: “Out of Band”
- As a result, I never really learned CW
- I have not believed advertisements since!
- I also learned that *you need to understand the physics* of antennas

→→→ Modeling (1993)

IS K6INI THE WORLD'S CHAMPION DX OPERATOR?

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CN8FB	KP4ACF	VP2AY
CR9AH	KP6AL	VP2DW
CT1CB	KR6BF	VP2MX
CX2FD	KS4AZ	VP2LU
DL1FF	KV4AA	VP2SV
DU7SV	KW6CA	VP5CP
EA1FD	KX6AF	VP5BH
EI4N	KZ5CS	VP6TR
F8VQ	LA3SG	VP7NM
F8ZZ	LU2DFC	LU1ZS
FG7XE	LZ1KSP	VP9BK
FK8AL	OA4AU	VR2DA
FM7WT	OE9EJ	VR3B
FO8AD	OH2TM	VS1HC
G3DOG	OK1FF	VS2DW
GC8DO	ON4AY	VS6LN
GI3WUI	OG1AX	XE1PJ
GM3GJB	OZ2RK	XW8AI
GW3LIN	PA0FAB	YN1JW
HA5KBP	PJ5AA	YU3FS
HC4IM	PJ2ME	YV5HL
HC8LUX	PY2EW	ZC5AL
HE9LAC	PI9INE	ZE1JV
HP1LO	SM5AQB	ZK1BS
I1MV	SP6BY	KH6MG/ZK1
JA1ANG	TI2LA	ZK2AD
JZ0HA	UA1AU	ZL1ABZ
W1AW	UA1KK8	ZL3JA
K6BJ	UO2AB	ZW6AS
KC4AF	VE8OJ	ZS1OU

FACTS ON THE GOTHAM V-80 VERTICAL

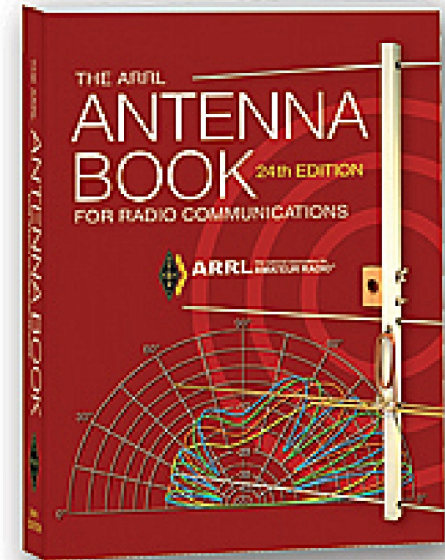
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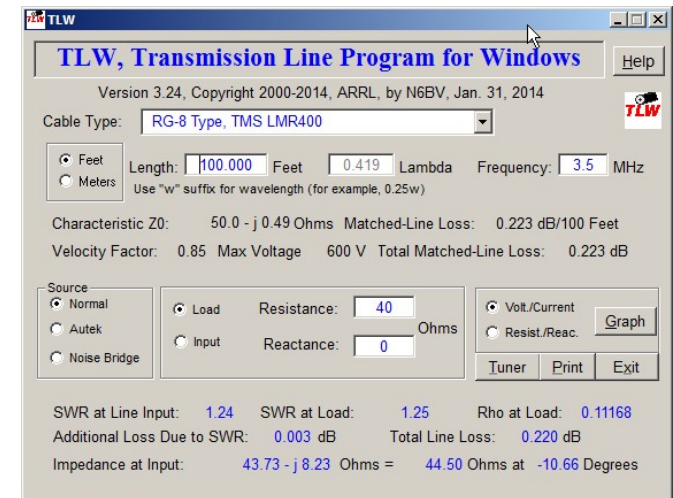
Antenna Modeling ~ Agenda

- TLW
- YW
- HFTA



TLW – Transmission Line Program for Windows

R. Dean Straw ~ N6BV ©ARRL



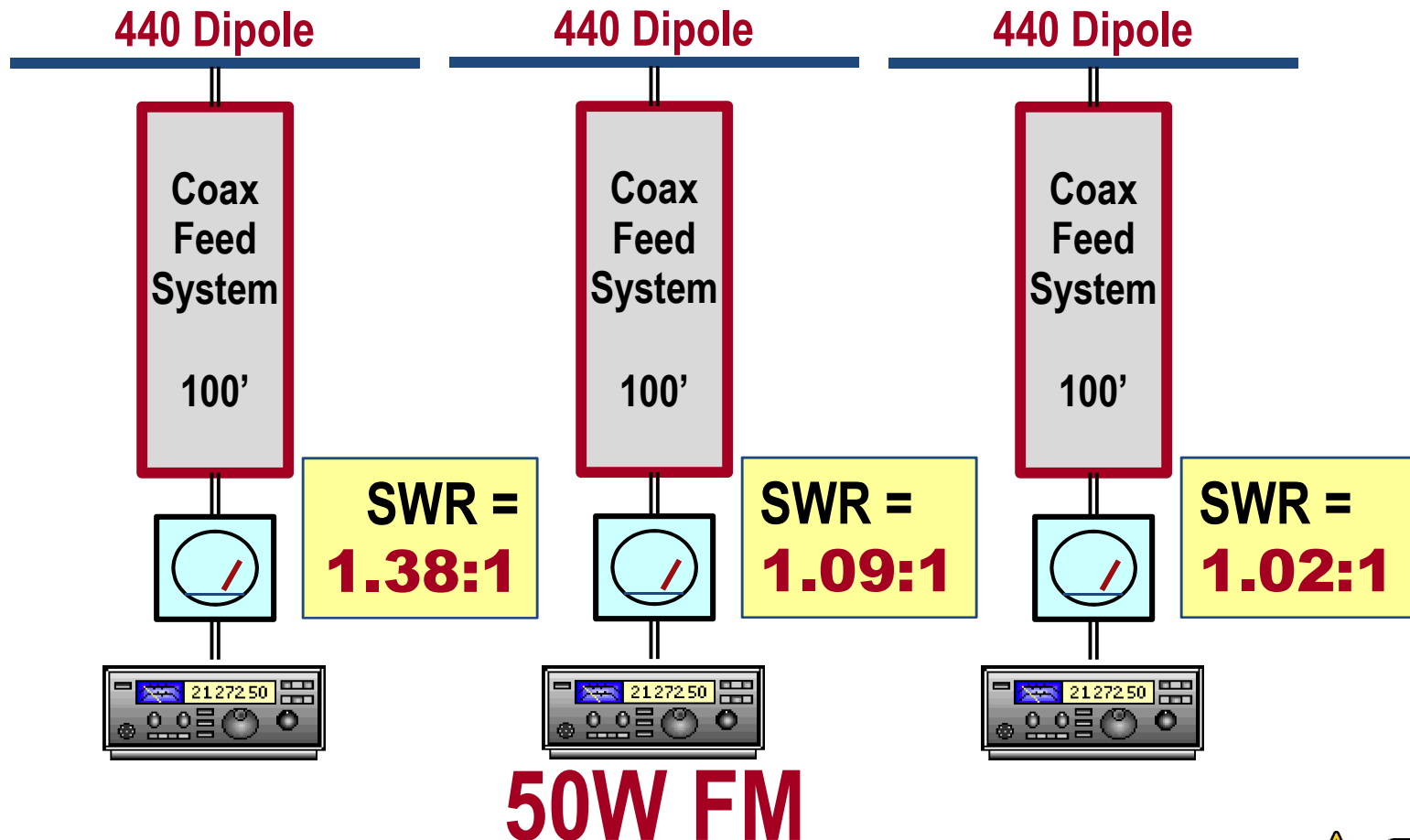
Basic Purpose:

- Input = cable type, frequency, dimensions, and load impedance
- Output = SWR at input, load, and feedline loss



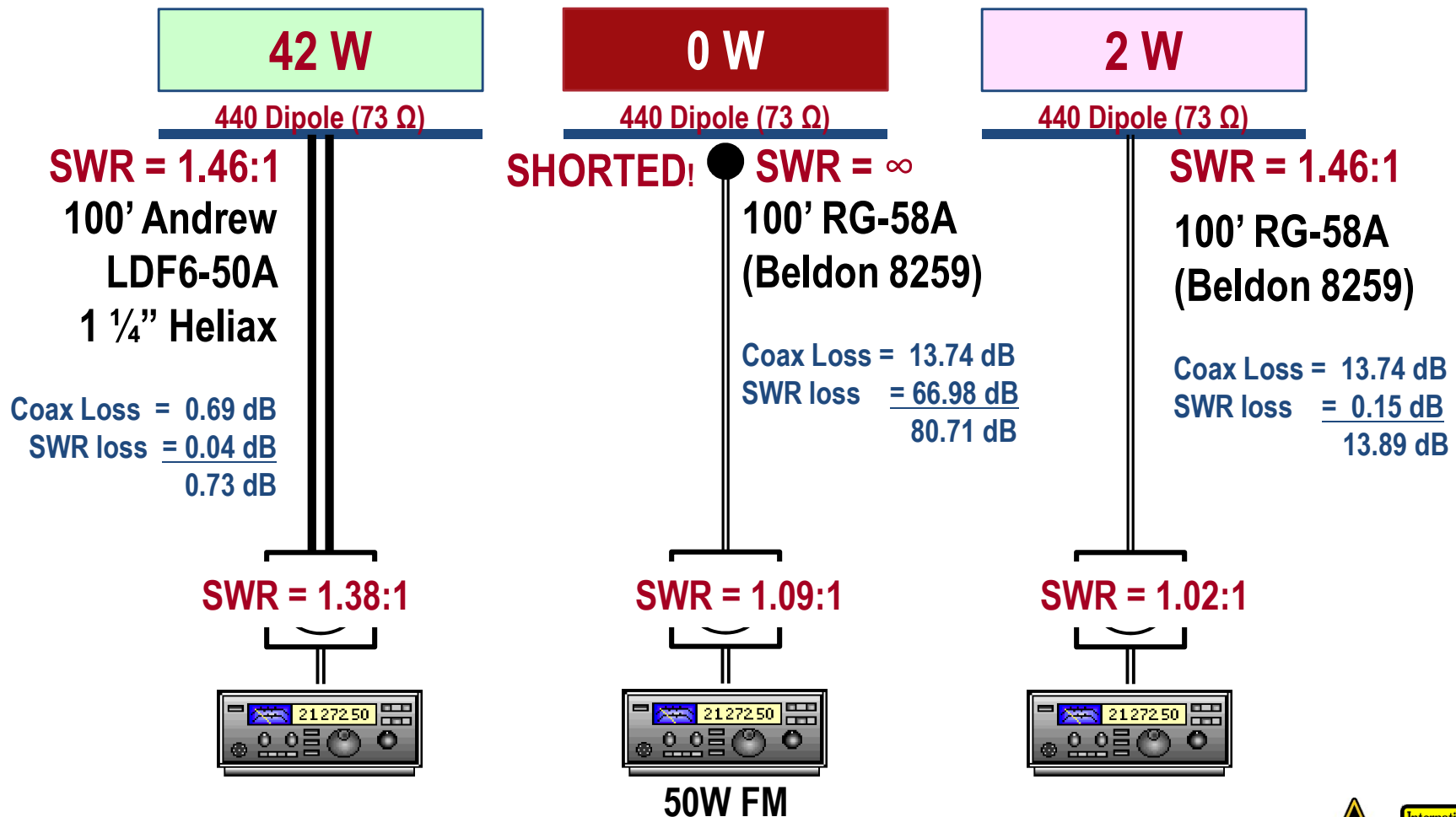
A Spot Quiz!

Question: Which is the better situation?



A Spot Quiz!

Answer: *Beware the Myth of Low SWR!*

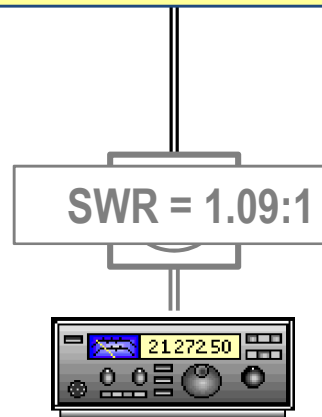
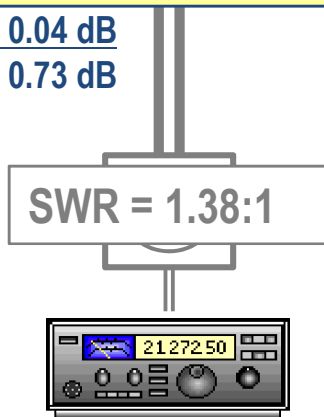


A Spot Quiz!

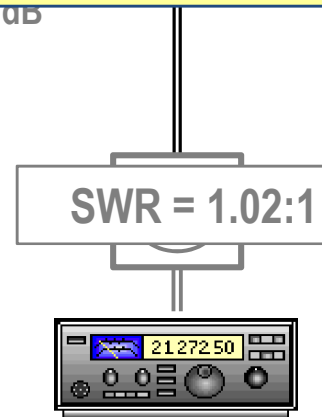
It's really too bad that SWR is so easy to measure in the shack – it can be very misleading.

Remember: the “ideal” SWR is generated with a broadband, matched dummy load!

SWR loss = $\frac{0.04 \text{ dB}}{0.73 \text{ dB}}$



60.71 dB



13.89 dB



TLW – Transmission Line Program for Windows

The screenshot shows the TLW program interface with the following settings and results:

- (1) Choose cable type:** Cable Type is set to **RG-8 Type, TMS LMR400**.
- (2) Choose cable length:** Length is set to **100.000** Feet.
- (3) Specify frequency:** Frequency is set to **432.0** MHz.
- (4) Enter load (antenna) impedance:** Load Resistance is set to **73** Ohms.
- (5) The Results:** The results section at the bottom shows:
 - SWR at Line Input: **1.22**
 - SWR at Load: **1.46**
 - Rho at Load: **0.18656**
 - Additional Loss Due to SWR: **0.110** dB
 - Total Line Loss: **2.843** dB
 - Impedance at Input: **44.19 - j 7.40** Ohms = **44.80** Ohms at **-9.51** Degrees



TLW – Transmission Line Program for Windows

Coax	SWR @70cm	Total Loss @70cm	Delivered Power
			70cm
1 ¼" Heliax	1.38:1	0.73 dB	42 W
½ " Heliax	1.31:1	1.54 dB	35 W
LMR 400 "RG8"	1.22:1	2.83 dB	26 W
8267 RG213	1.12:1	5.28 dB	15 W
LMR 240"RG8X"	1.12:1	5.37 dB	14 W
LMR 200 "RG58"	1.08:1	7.14 dB	10 W
9258 "RG8X"	1.05:1	9.08 dB	5 W
8259 "RG58A"	1.02:1	13.89 dB	2 W

50 W @ Transmitter / 100' Coax / 73 Ω Antenna

$$\text{dB} = 10 \log_{10} (W_i/W_o) \rightarrow W_o = W_i / 10^{\text{dB}/10}$$



TLW – Transmission Line Program for Windows

Coax	SWR @70cm	Total Loss @70cm	Delivered Power			
			70cm	2M	10M	80M
1 ¼" Heliax	1.38:1	0.73 dB	42 W	46	48	49
½ " Heliax	1.31:1	1.54 dB	35 W	41	46	49
LMR 400 "RG8"	1.22:1	2.83 dB	26 W	34	43	47
8267 RG213	1.12:1	5.28 dB	15 W	26	38	46
LMR 240"RG8X"	1.12:1	5.37 dB	14 W	25	37	45
LMR 200 "RG58"	1.08:1	7.14 dB	10 W	19	33	43
9258 "RG8X"	1.05:1	9.08 dB	5 W	16	32	43
8259 "RG58A"	1.02:1	13.89 dB	2 W	9	25	40

50 W @ Transmitter / 100' Coax / 73 Ω Antenna



TLW – Transmission Line Program for Windows

Left to you for Homework...

TLW, Transmission Line Program for Windows

Version 3.24, Copyright 2000-2014, ARRL, by N6BV, Jan. 31, 2014

Cable Type: **RG-8 Type, TMS LMR400**

☒ Feet Length: **100.000** Feet **51.672** Lambda Frequency: **432.0** MHz
☐ Meters Use "w" suffix for wavelength (for example, 0.25w)

Characteristic Z0: 50.0 - j 0.05 Ohms Matched-Line Loss: 2.733 dB/100 Feet
Velocity Factor: 0.85 Max Voltage 600 V Total Matched-Line Loss: 2.733 dB

Source
☒ Normal
☐ Load
☐ Noise Bridge

☒ Load Resistance: **73** Ohms
☐ Input Reactance: **0** Ohms

☒ Volt./Current
☐ Resist./Reac.

Tuner Graph Exit

SWR at Line Input: **1.22** SWR at Load: **1.46** Rho at Load: **0.18656**
Additional Loss Due to SWR: **0.110** dB Total Line Loss: **2.843** dB
Impedance at Input: **44.19 - j 7.40** Ohms = **44.80** Ohms at **-9.51** Degrees

If you know the impedance in your shack, you can estimate the load impedance

You can look at the Voltage, Current, Resistance, and Reactance on the transmission line

You can use TLW to help you design a TransMatch.

NOTE:
Antenna Tuners **DO NOT** tune anything!



TLW – Transmission Line Program for Windows

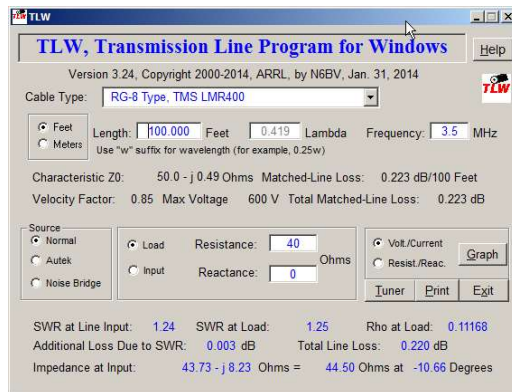
Summary:

- It's really too bad that SWR is so easy to measure in the shack
- It is only one parameter in the understanding of your Antenna System
- However, do measure it, document it, and use it as one measure of your Antenna System's health – it will tell you if something has changed



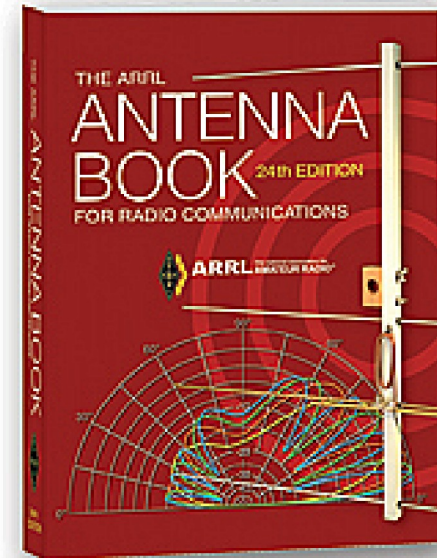
TLW – Transmission Line Program for Windows

Helps you understand and design your
Antenna System



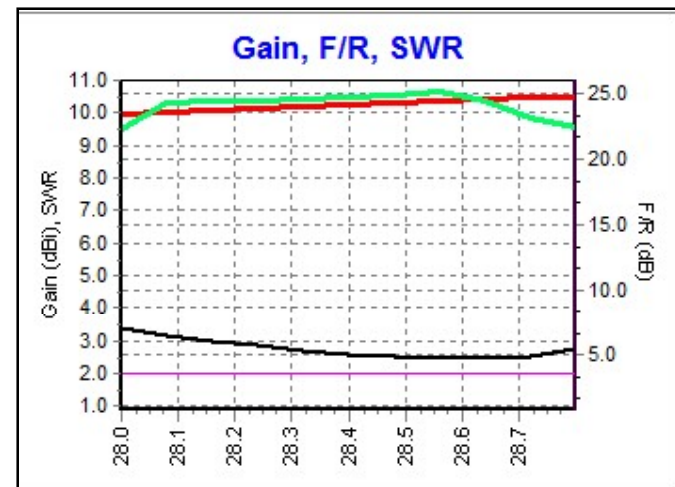
Antenna Modeling ~ Agenda

- TLW
- YW
- HFTA



YW — Yagi for Windows

R. Dean Straw ~ N6BV ©ARRL



Purpose:

- Input = dimensions of a traditional monoband Yagi, its height and its matching
- Output = graphs/patterns of Gain, F/R, SWR



YW – Yagi for Windows

Description

- Similar to earlier DOS based program: **YO** from **Brian Beezley**
- Computes Gain, worse-case F/R, SWR, E- & H-plane patterns
- Generates on-screen graphs
- Results compare closely with YO, EZNEC, NEC-4
- Runs much faster
- **Includes design files for 80+ Yagi designs** included in ARRL Antenna Book



YW – Yagi for Windows

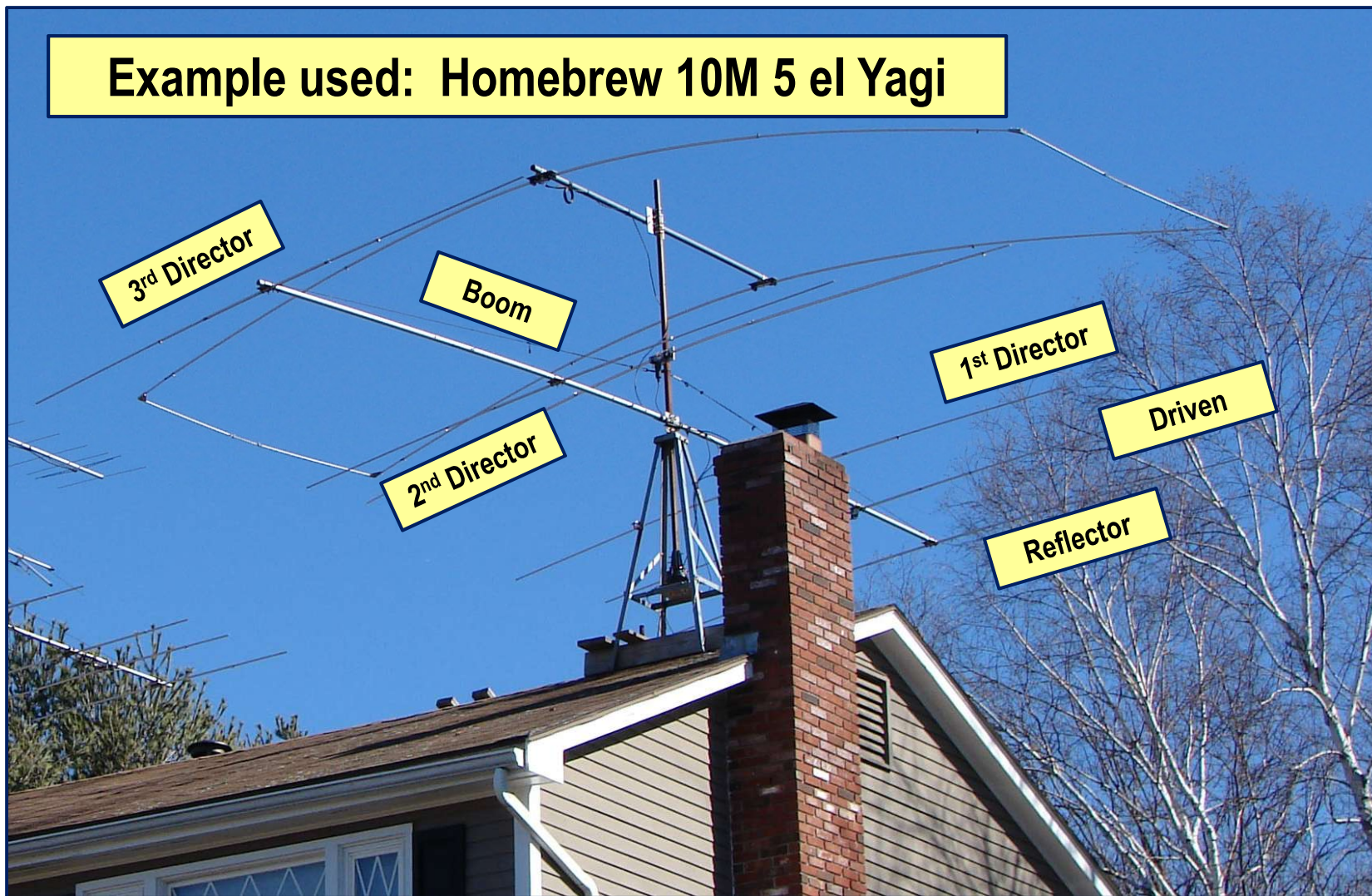
Limitations

- Works only for “traditional” monoband Yagis
- Evaluations done over flat “perfect” ground
- Not accurate below height of $\lambda/8$
- Not accurate in stacks, near other antennas, etc.
- Does not generate output data files
- No optimization routine – like YO

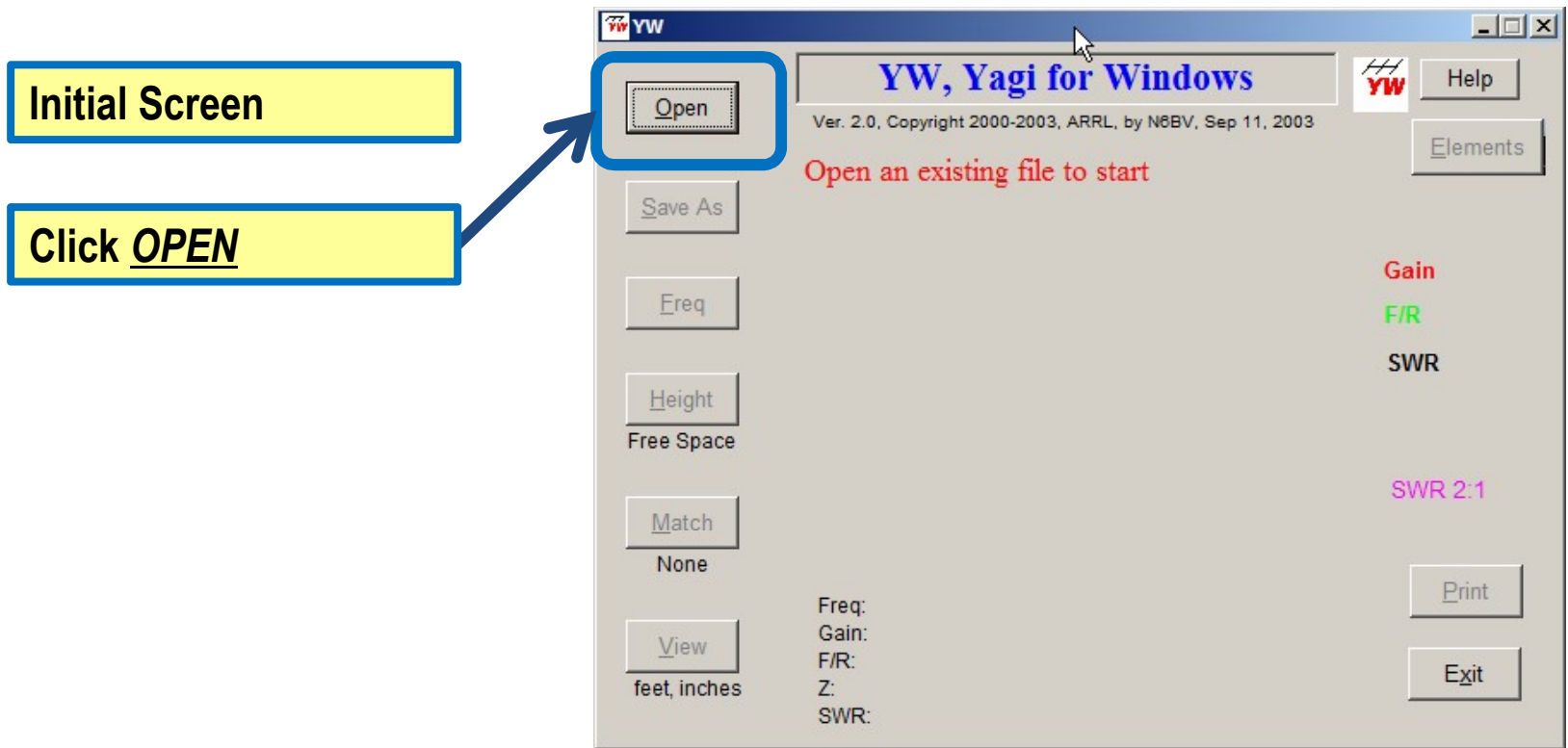


33 Blueberry Hill Rd – Woburn Antennas

Example used: Homebrew 10M 5 el Yagi

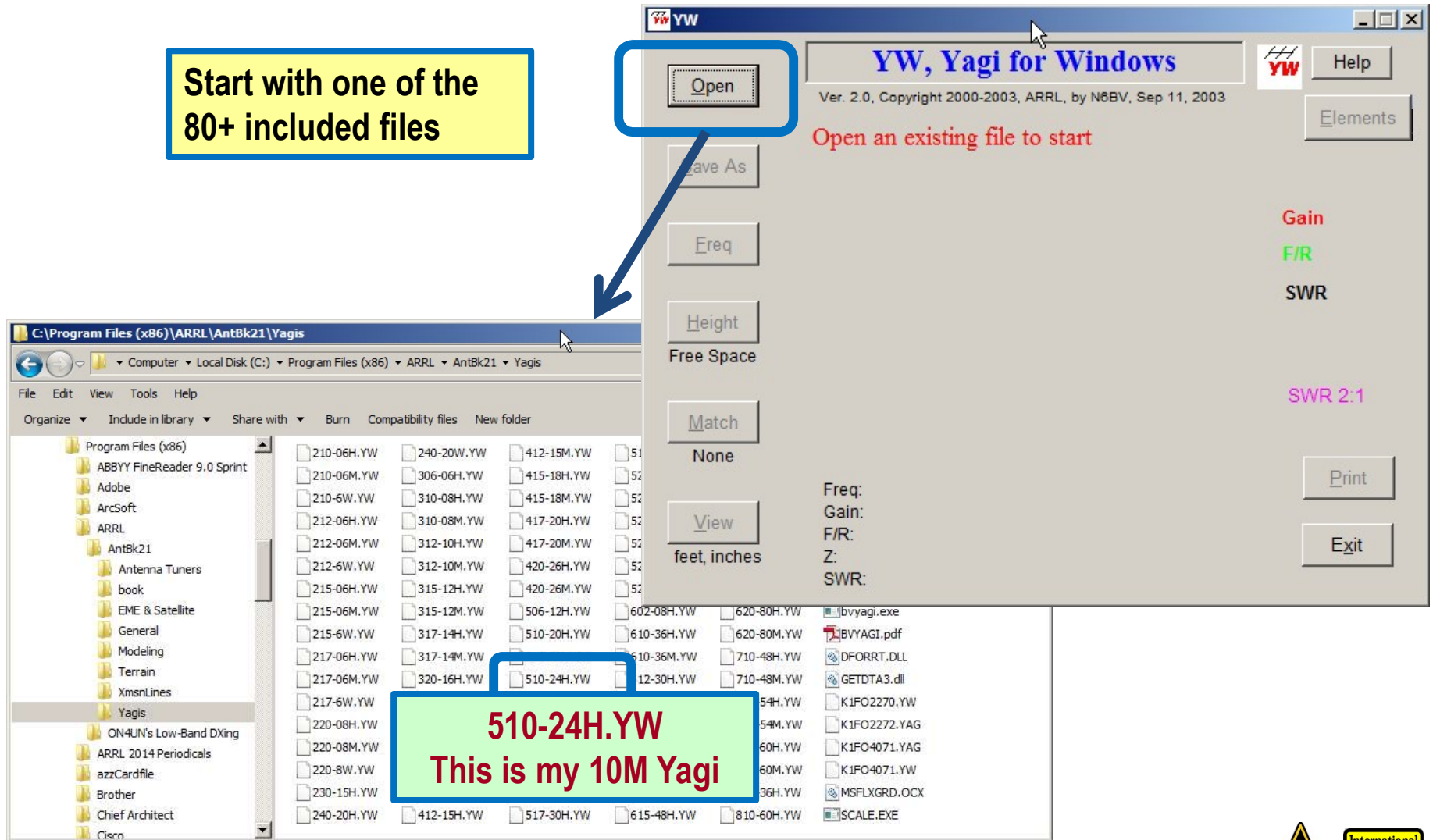


YW Example: 5el 10M yagi

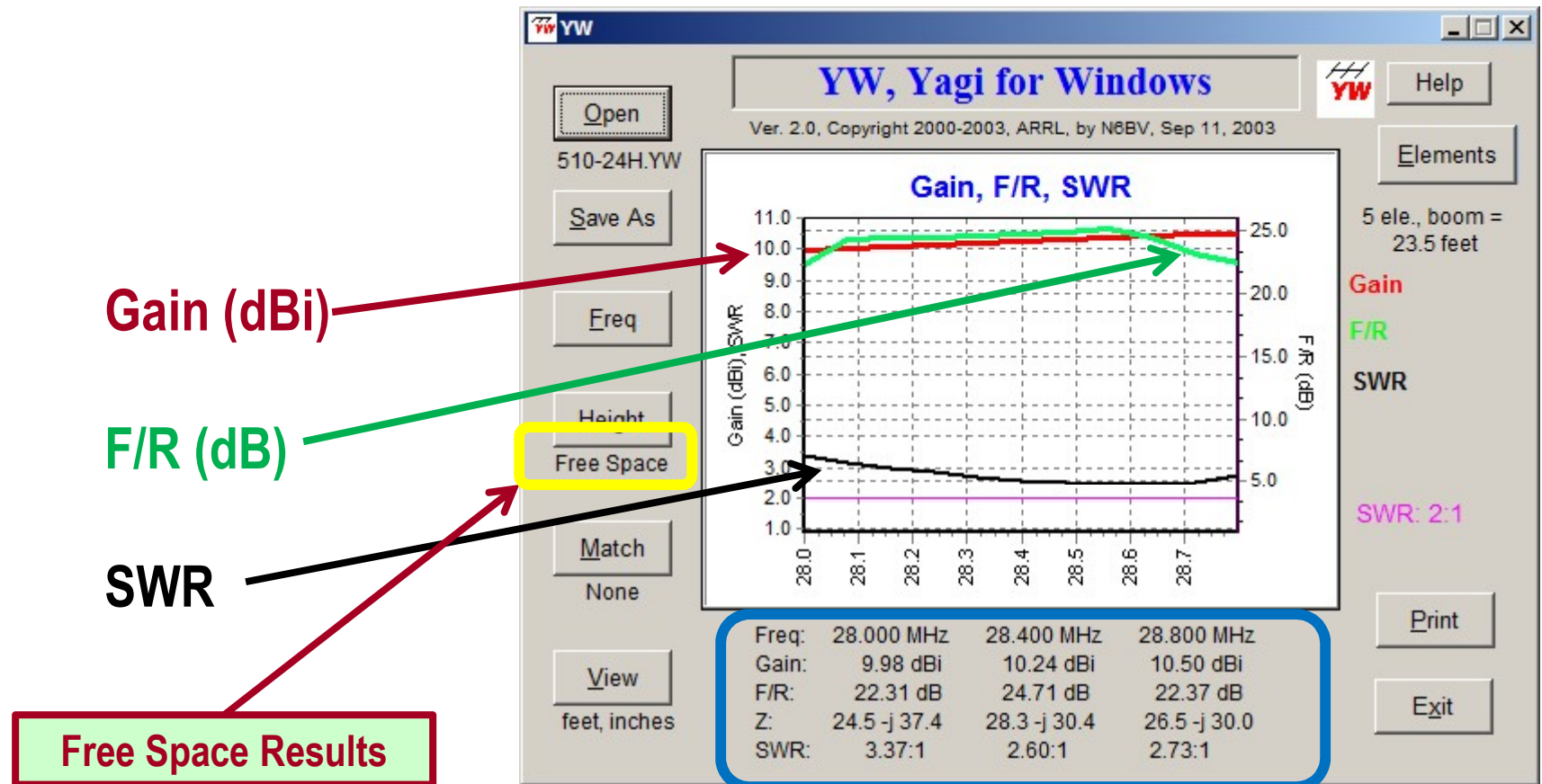


YW Example: 5el 10M yagi

Start with one of the 80+ included files



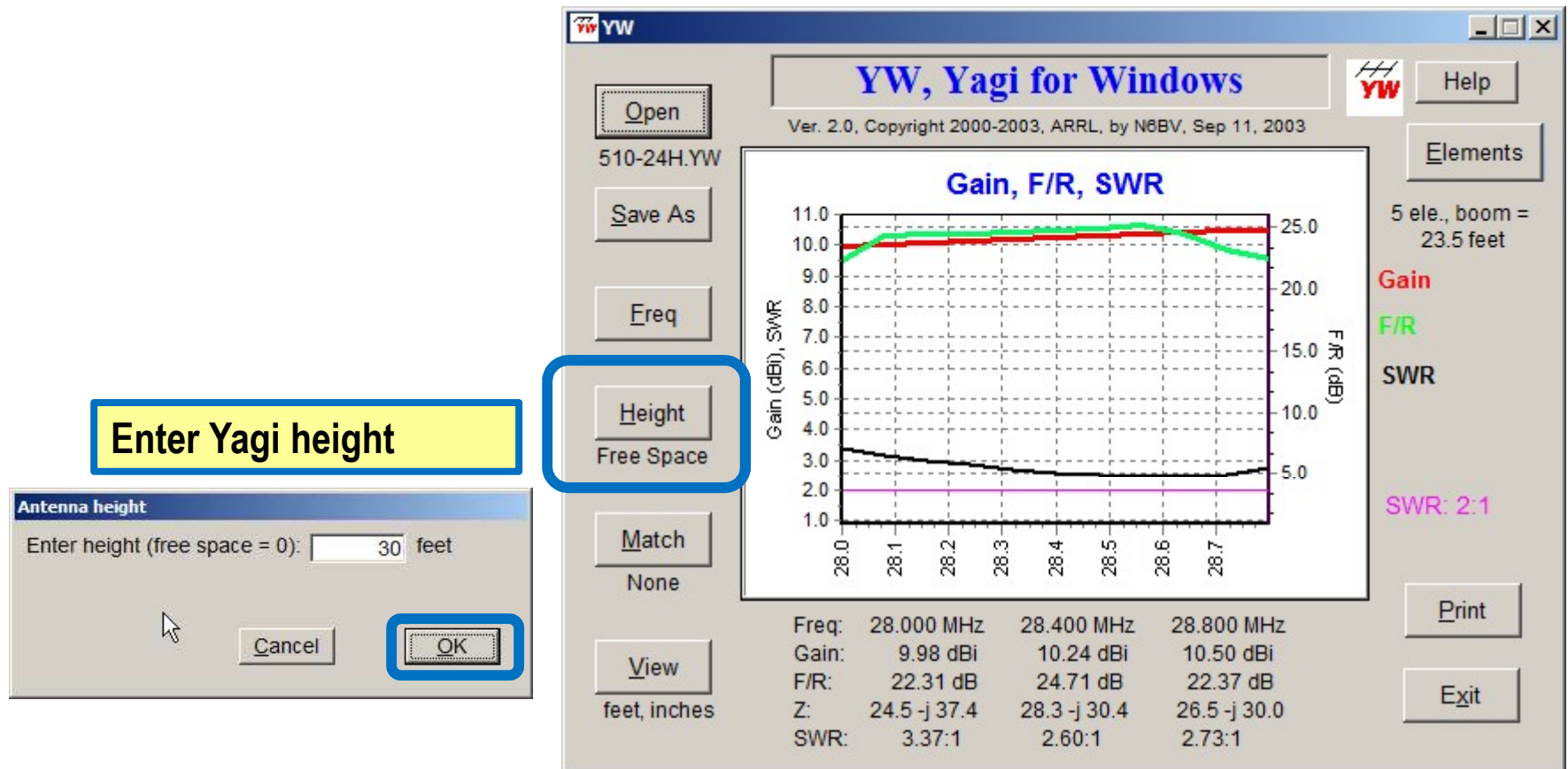
YW Example: 5el 10M yagi



Free Space, unmatched



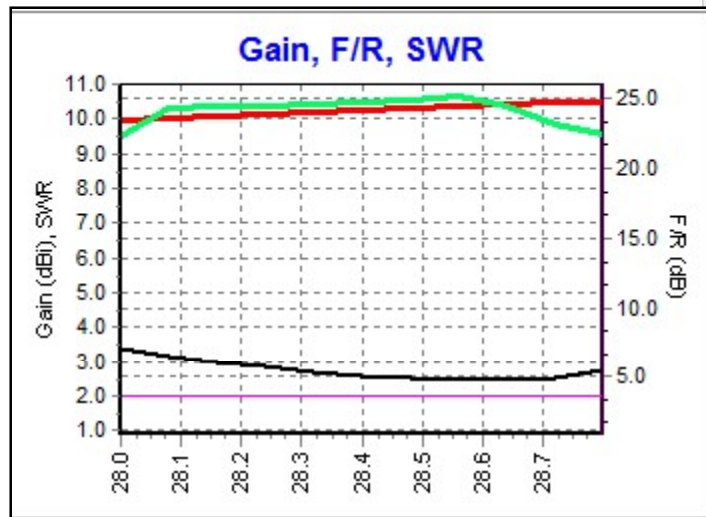
YW Example: 5el 10M yagi



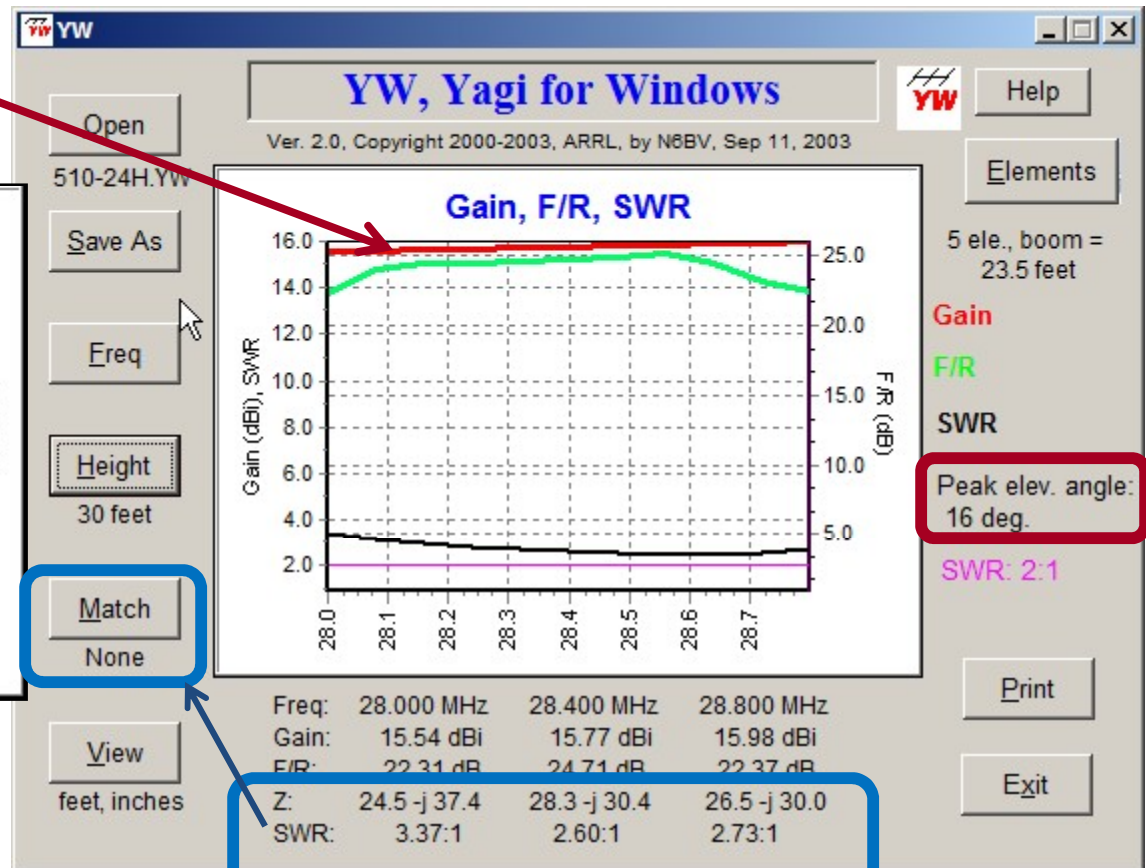
YW Example: 5el 10M yagi

30' High, unmatched

Note that Gain has increased,
@ 16° elevation angle.



Free Space

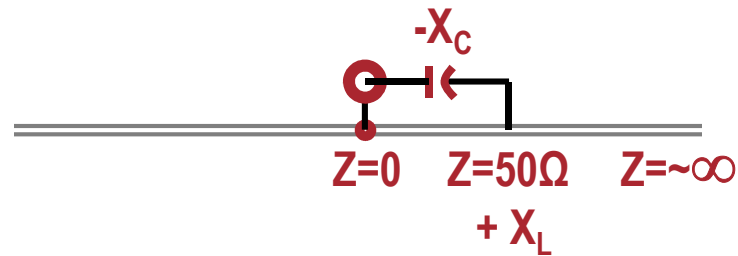


SWR unchanged - Now we need to match it

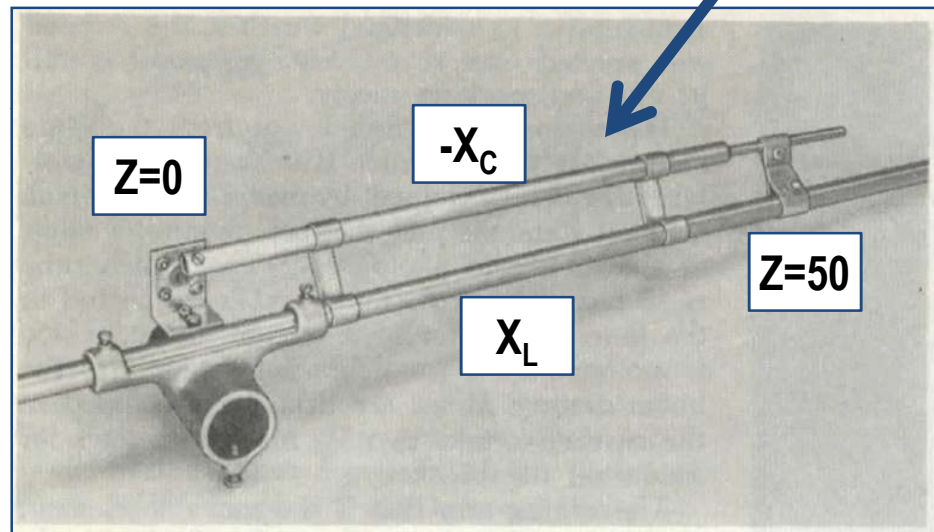
Choose a Gamma Match



YW Example: What is a GAMMA Match?



“Trombone” Capacitor



ARRL V.H.F. Manual © 1965



YW Example: 5el 10M yagi

Match it (Gamma Match)

Diagram illustrating the Gamma Match setup for a 5-element 10MHz Yagi antenna.

The diagram shows the antenna structure with the feed point at the driven element tip, where the impedance is $Z=0$. The series impedance is $Z=50\Omega + X_L$, and the load impedance is $Z=\sim\infty$.

The software interface (YW) shows the Matching dialog box with the following settings:

- Match frequency: 28.400 MHz
- Driven-element tip: 58.0 inches
- (Original tip length = 58.0 inches)
- Feed-point Z: 28.3 - j 30.4 ohms
- Cable Z0 impedance: 50 ohms
- Gamma rod diameter: 0.25 inches
- Gamma rod spacing: 6 inches

The **Match** button is highlighted, and the **Compute Match** button is also highlighted.

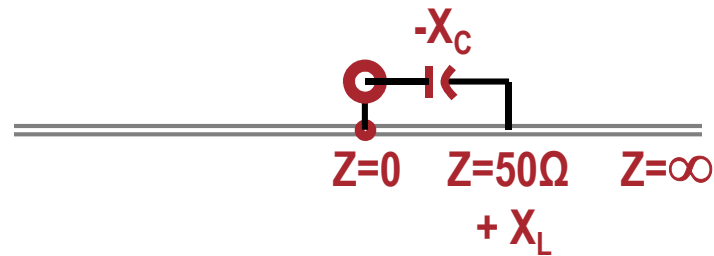
The resulting Gamma Match parameters are:

- Gamma capacitance: 45.8 pF
- Gamma rod length = 15.44 inches

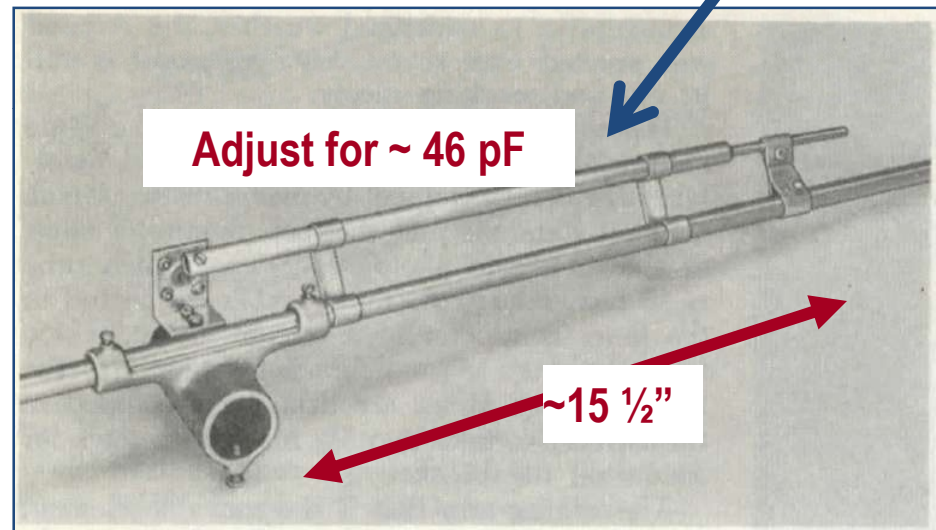
The **Compute Match** button and the **OK** button are highlighted.



YW Example: What is a GAMMA Match?



“Trombone” Capacitor

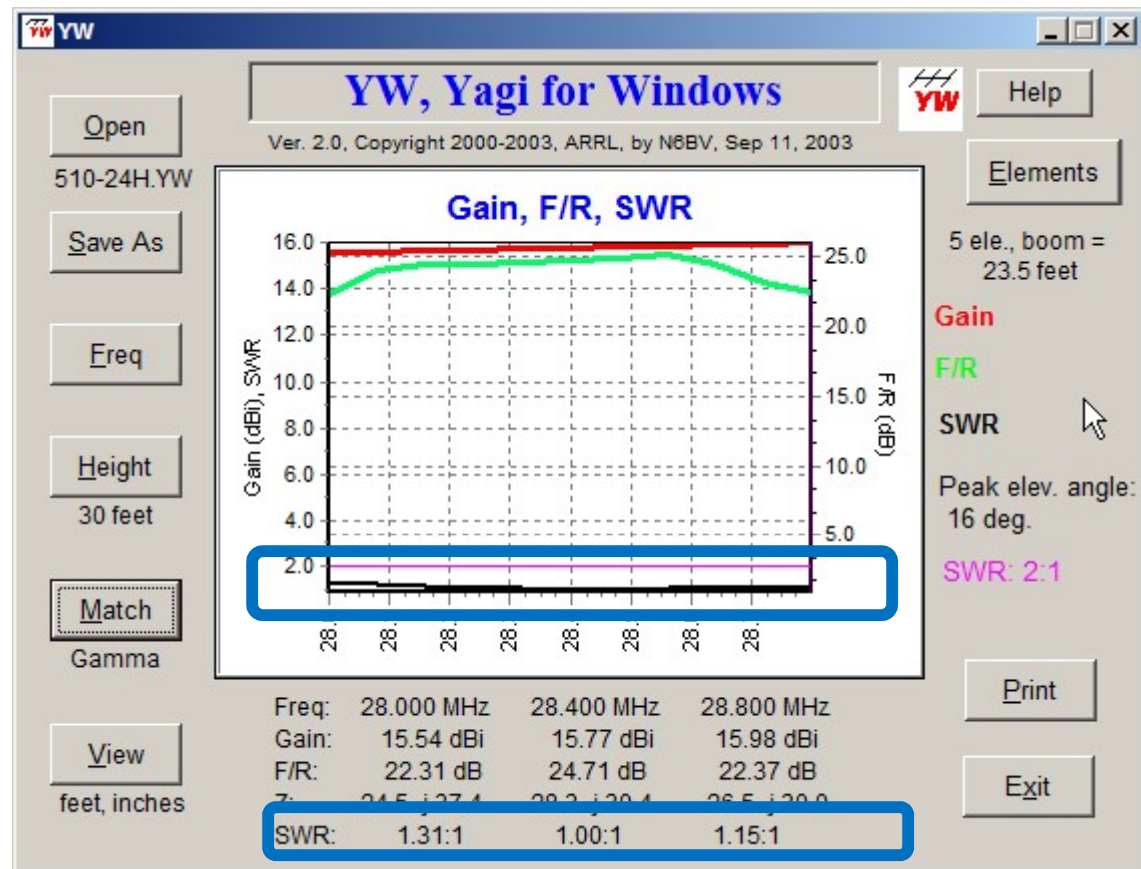


ARRL V.H.F. Manual © 1965



YW Example: 5el 10M yagi

30' high, matched



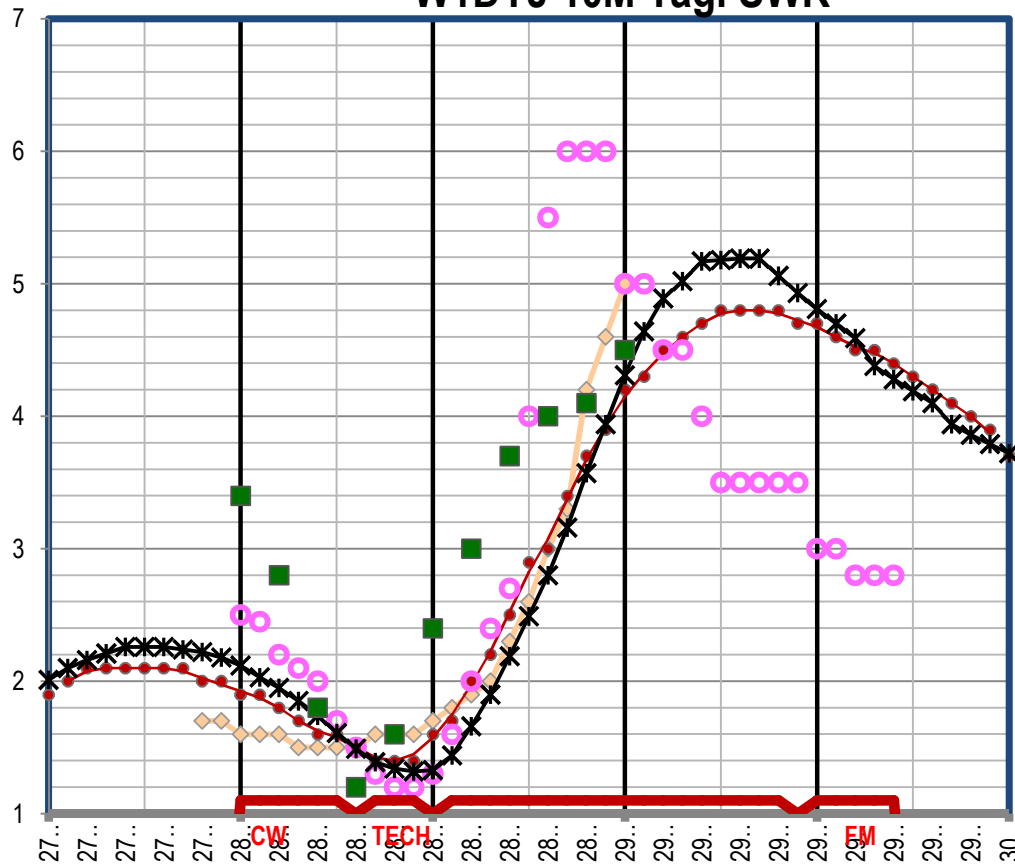
SWR is "tamed".



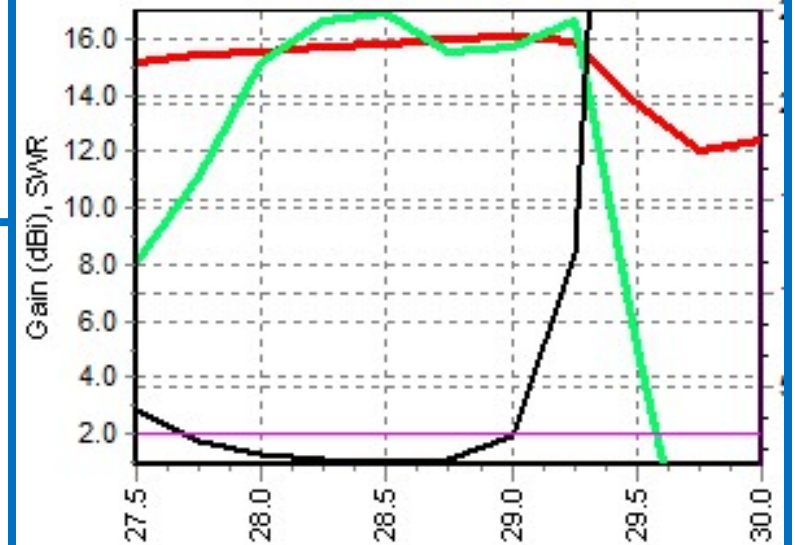
YW Example: 5el 10M yagi

Compare to Actuals

W1DYJ 10M Yagi SWR



Gain, F/R, SWR



27.5 MHz. → 30MHz.

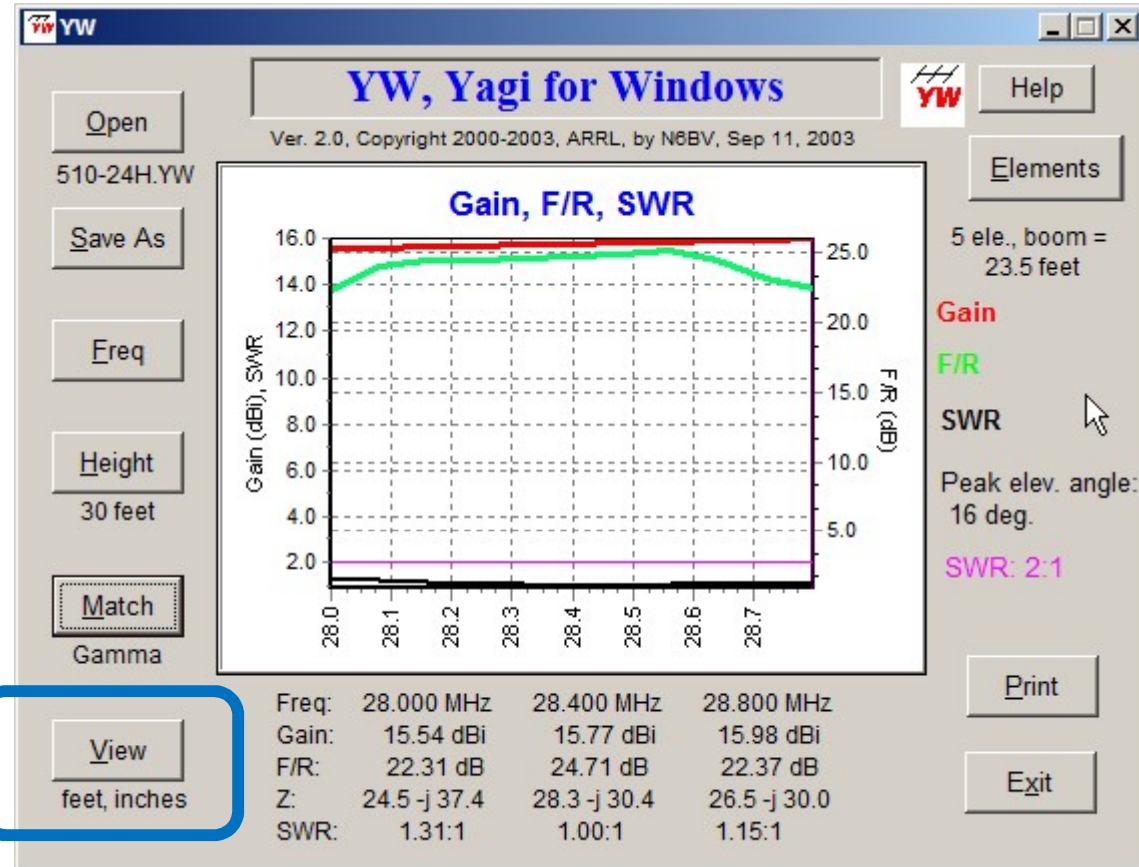


YW Example: 5el 10M yagi

**SWR is NOT
the only
criteria!**

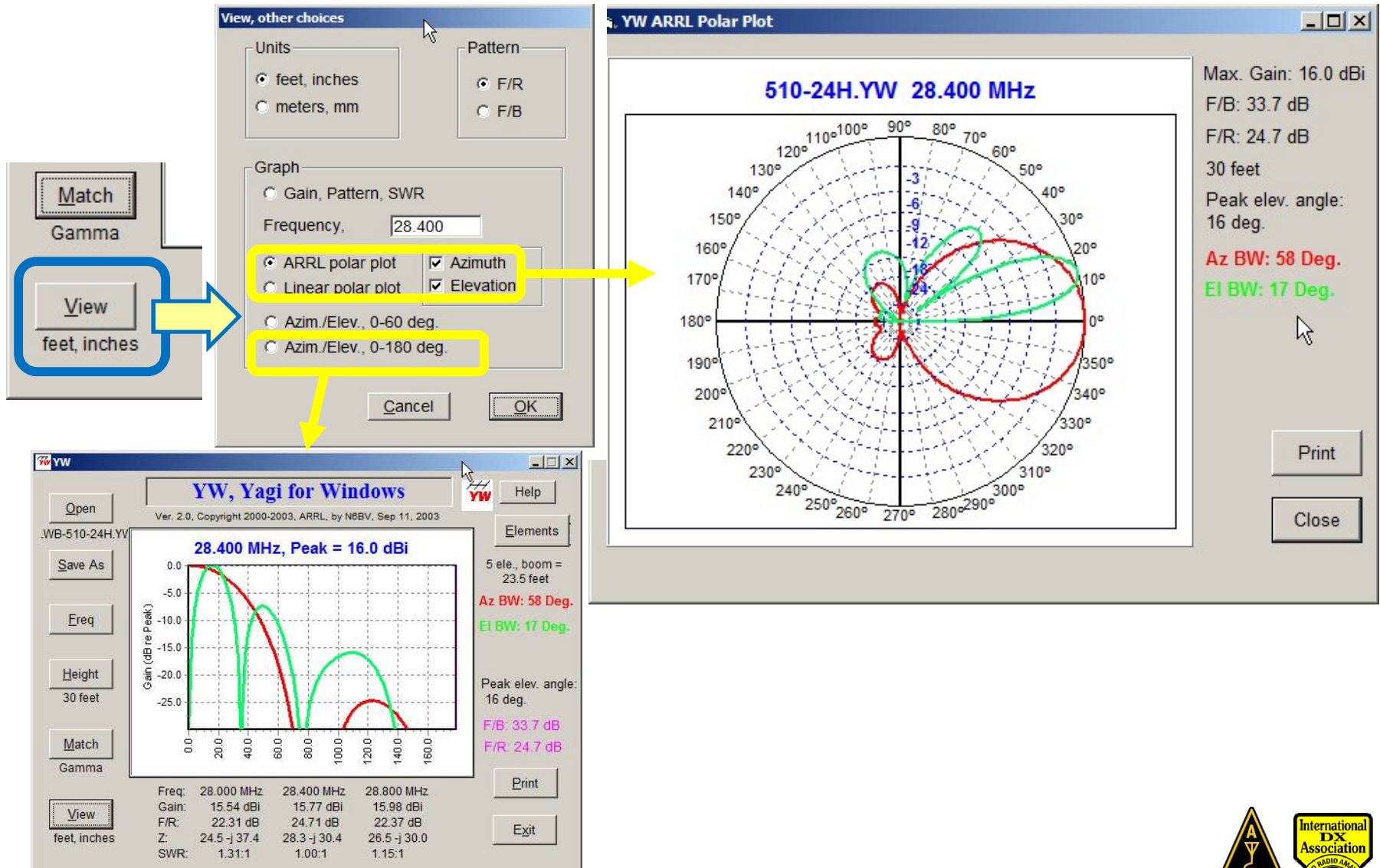
Antennas are **PASSIVE**:
they generate “gain” by
redirecting the RF.

**WHERE is
the RF
going?!**



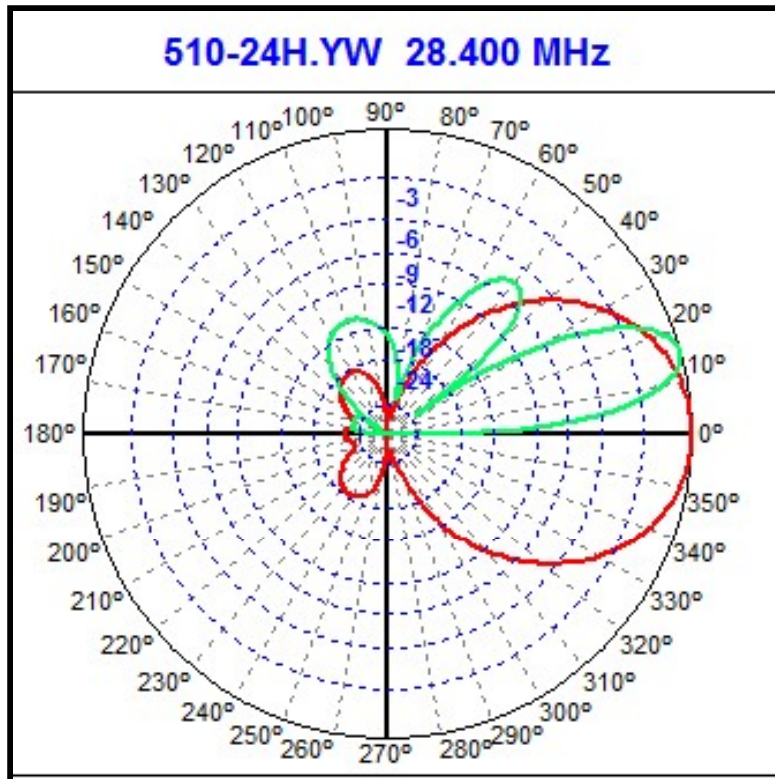
YW Example: 5el 10M yagi

30' high, matched

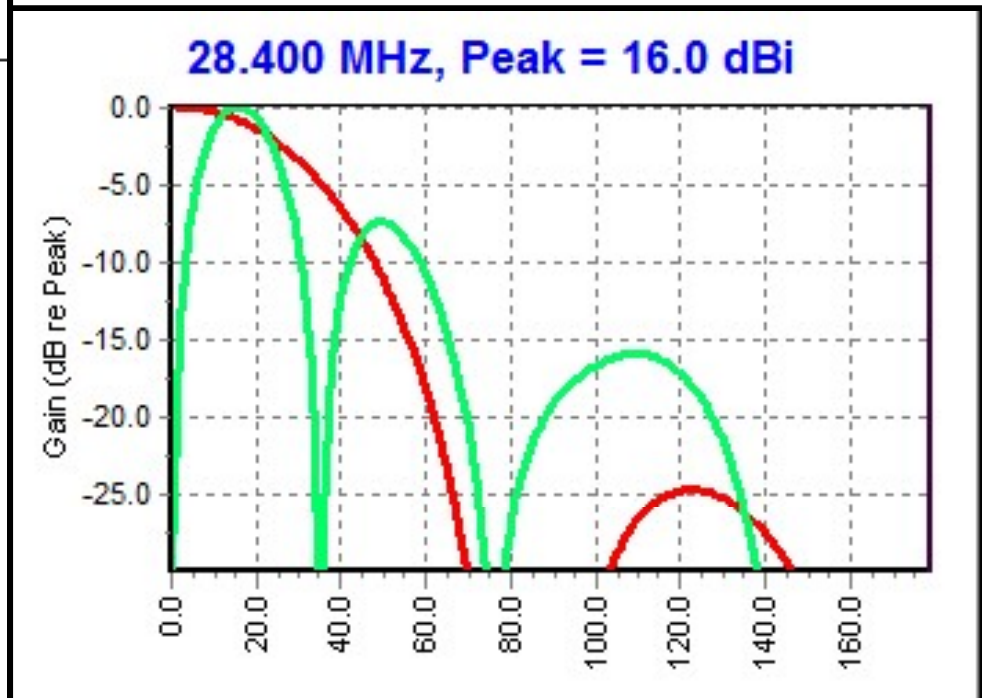


YW Example: 5el 10M yagi

30' high, matched



POLAR Plot



CARTESIAN Plot

Same Data
Elevation
Azimuth



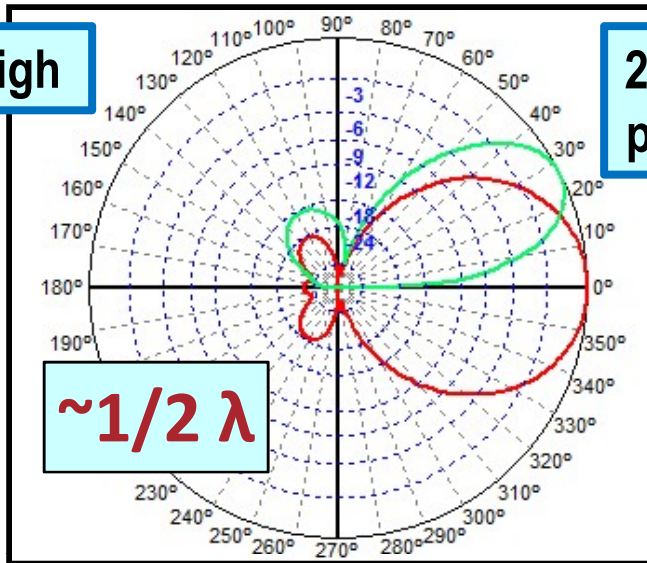
YW Example: 5el 10M yagi

Idealized pattern at different heights

15' high

26°
peak

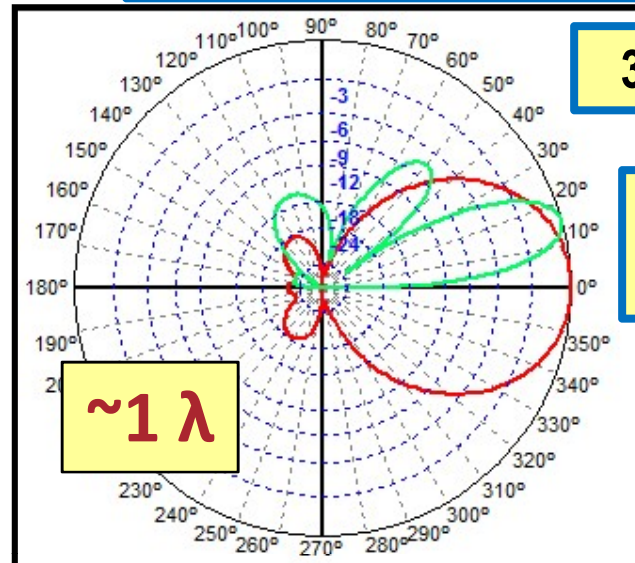
$\sim 1/2 \lambda$



30' high

16°
peak

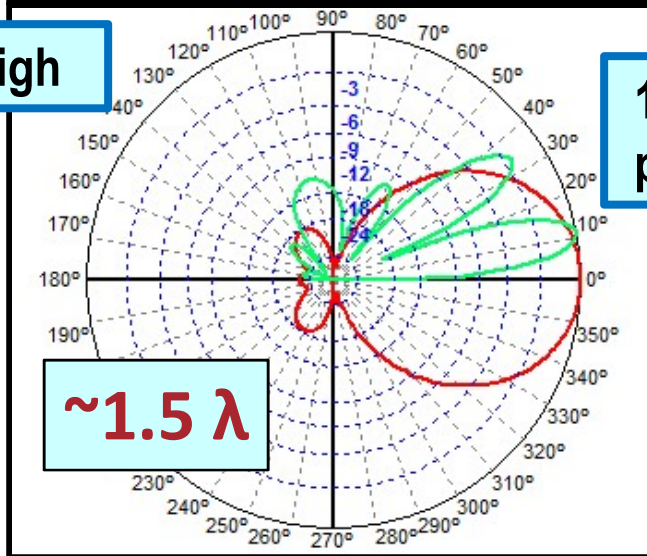
$\sim 1 \lambda$



45' high

11°
peak

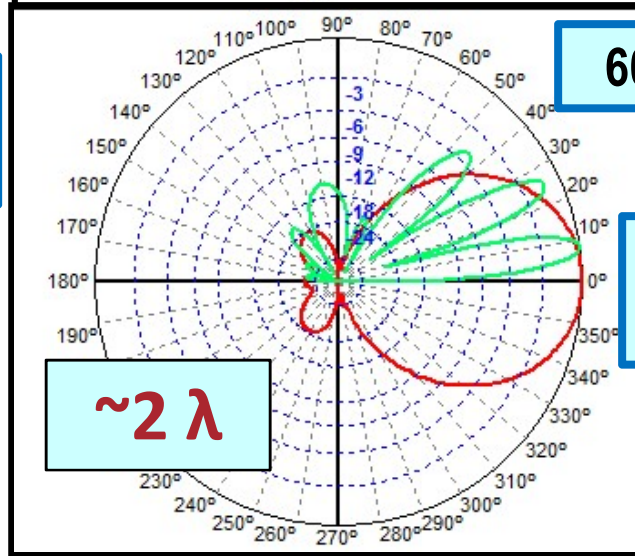
$\sim 1.5 \lambda$



60' high

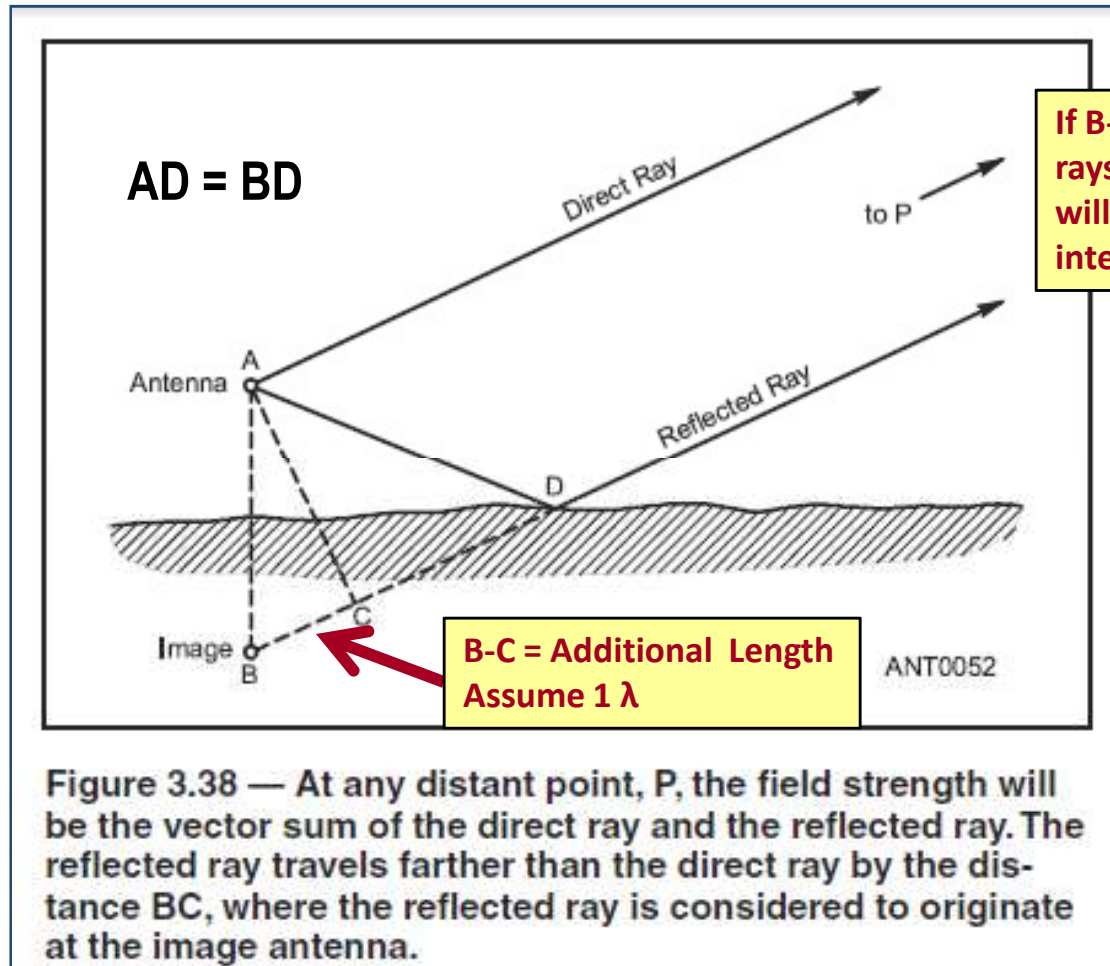
8°
peak

$\sim 2 \lambda$



YW Example:

What's really going on with different heights?



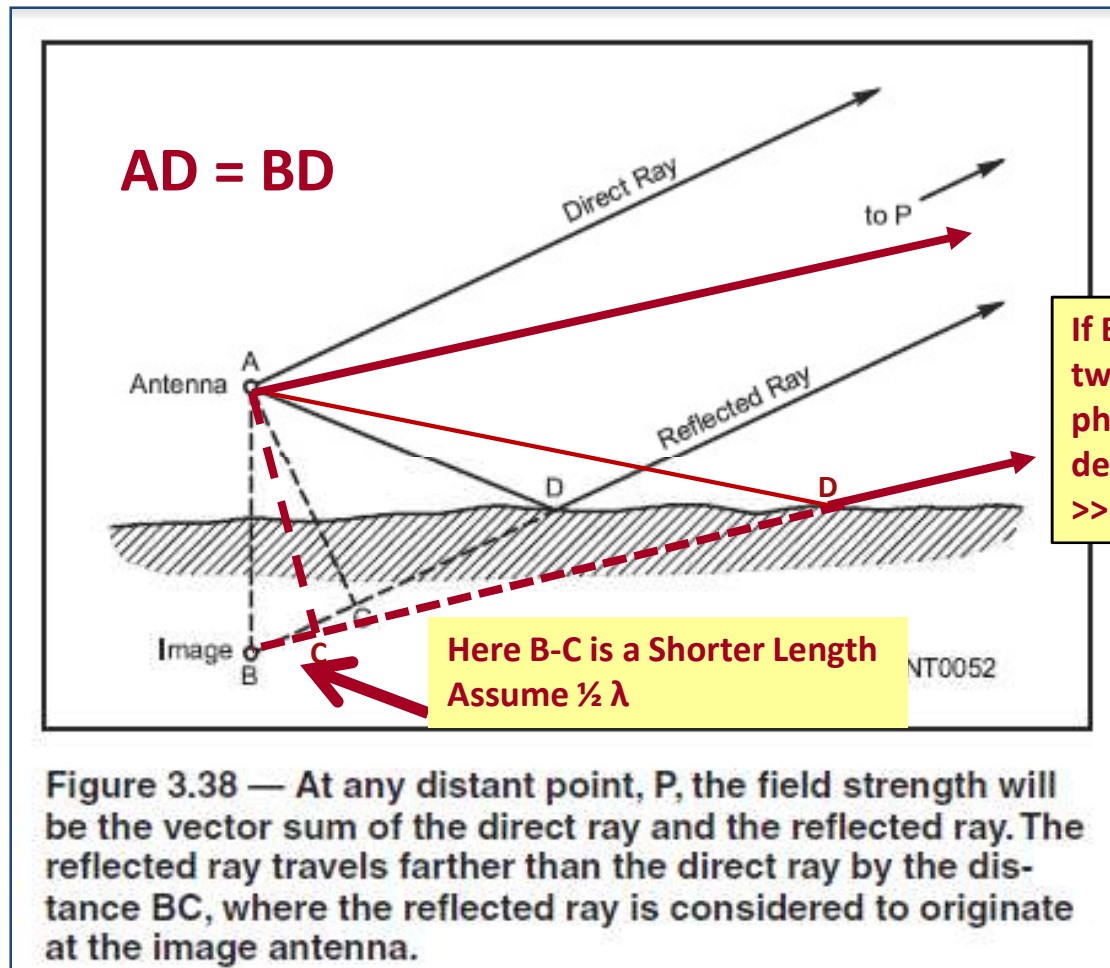
If $B-C = 1\lambda$, then the two rays are in phase, there will be constructive interference >> a peak

© ARRL
Antenna Book



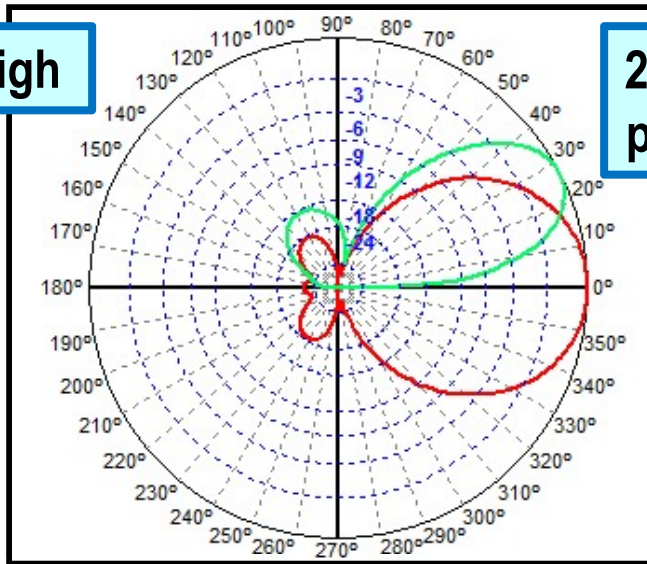
YW Example:

What's really going on with different heights?



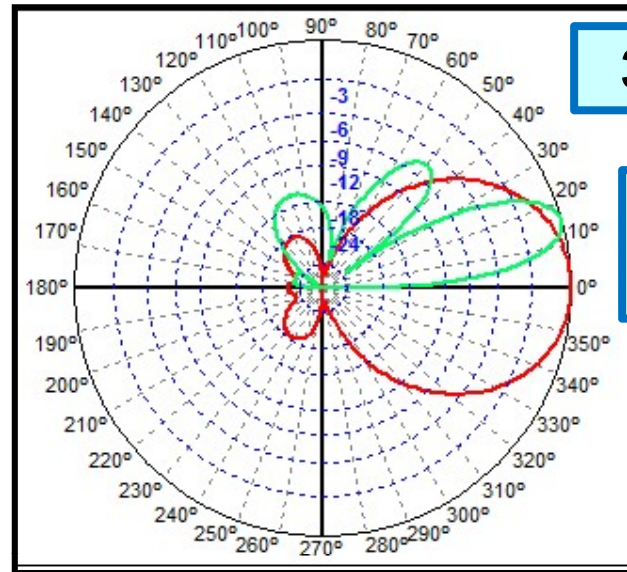
YW Example: 5el 10M yagi

15' high

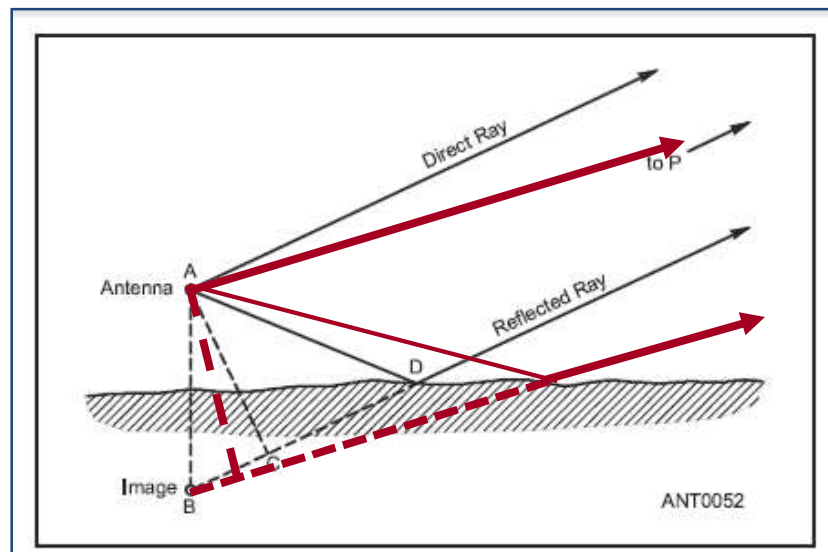


26°
peak

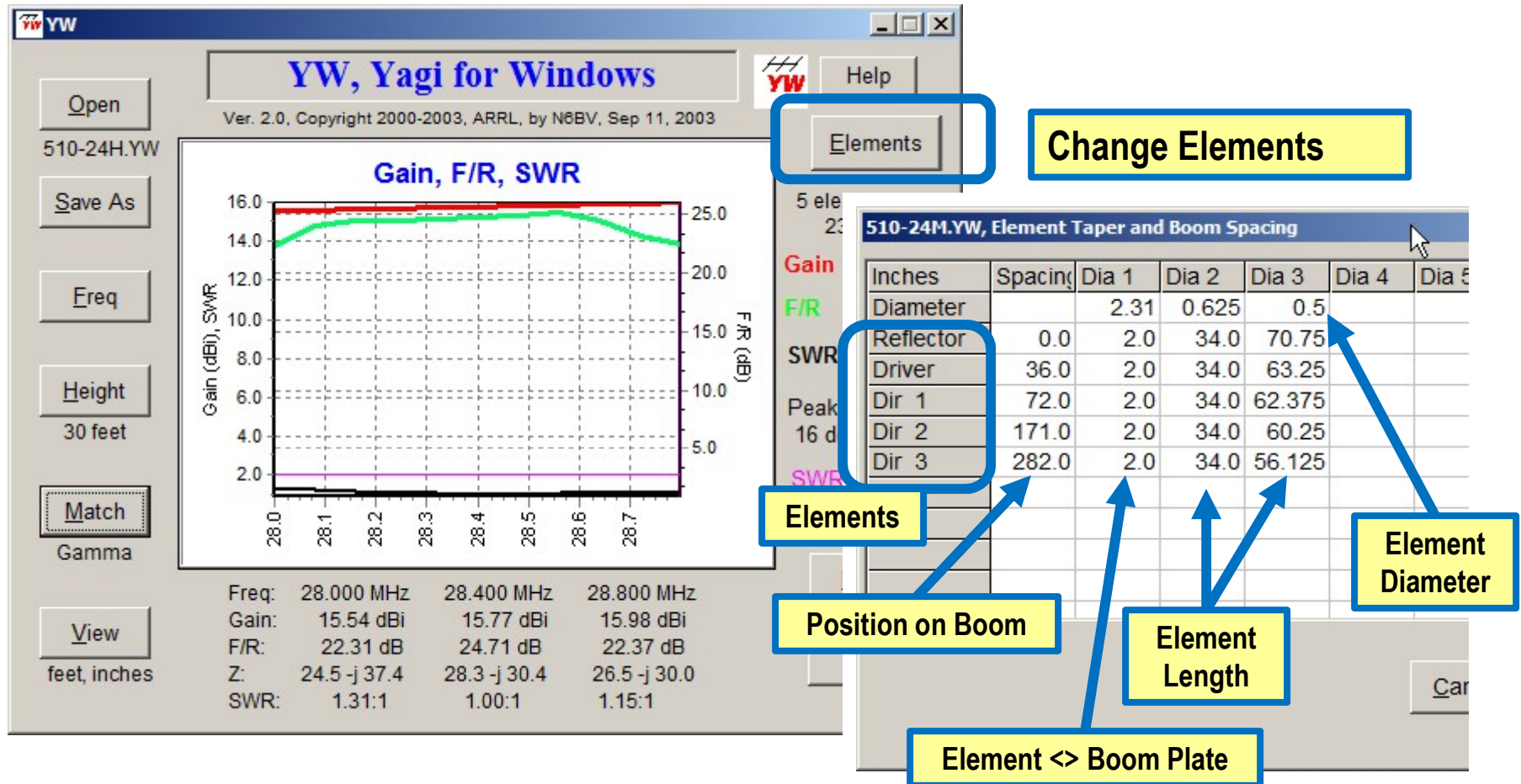
30' high



16°
peak



YW Example: 5el 10M yagi → Redesign

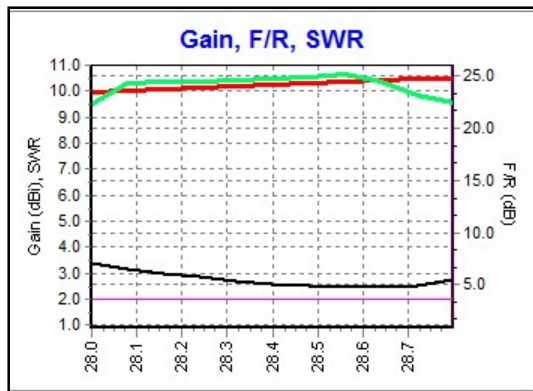


YW does not have the “automatic” optimization routine that YO had.



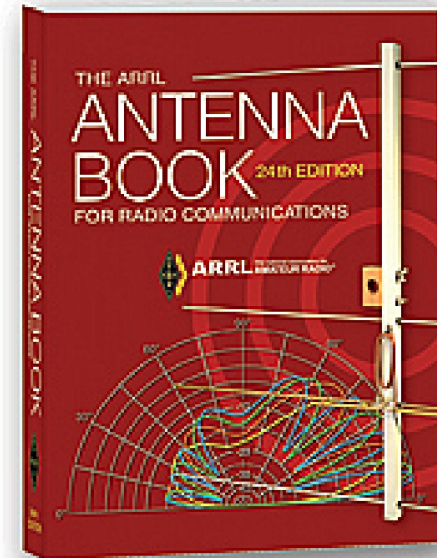
YW – Yagi for Windows

Helps you understand/design your
monoband Yagis,
but – assumes flat, perfect ground



Antenna Modeling ~ Agenda

- TLW
- YW
- **HFTA**

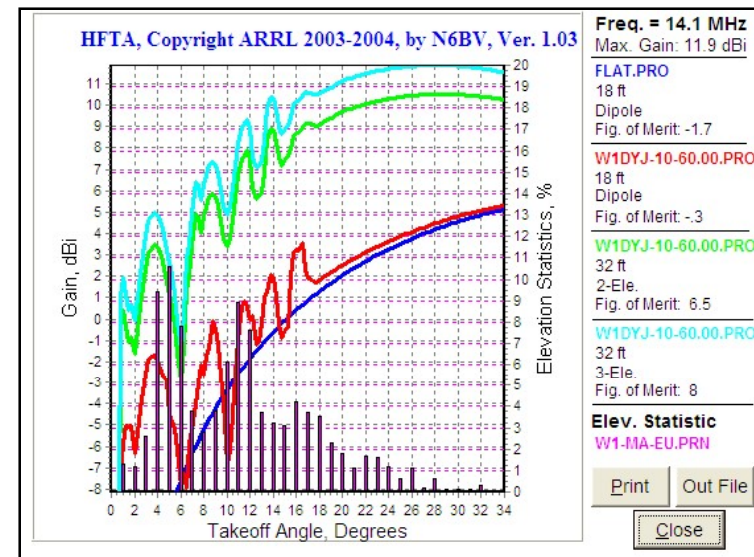


HFTA – High Frequency Terrain Assessment

R. Dean Straw ~ N6BV ©ARRL

Purpose:

Assesses the effect of uneven local terrain on the transmission and reception of HF signals.



INDEXA

HFTA – High Frequency Terrain Assessment

Agenda

- Overview of HFTA
- What are **Elevation Statistics**?
- What are **Terrain Files**?
- Using HFTA



HFTA – High Frequency Terrain Assessment

What problem does HFTA attempt to solve?

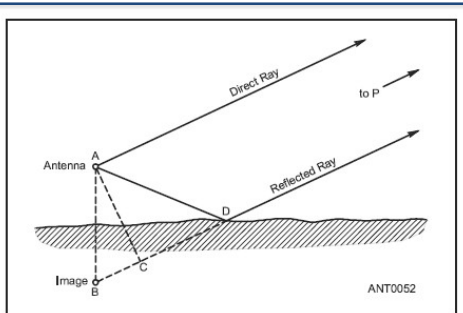


Figure 3.38 — At any distant point, P, the field strength will be the vector sum of the direct ray and the reflected ray. The reflected ray travels farther than the direct ray by the distance BC, where the reflected ray is considered to originate at the image antenna.

**YW assumes flat
ground**



HFTA – High Frequency Terrain Assessment

What problem does HFTA attempt to solve?

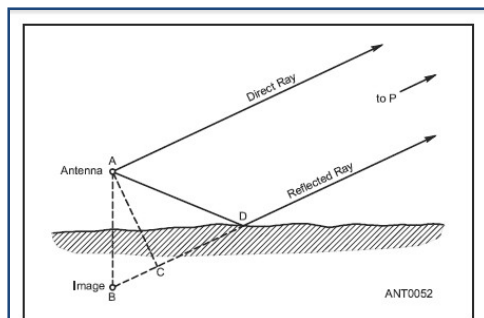


Figure 3.38 — At any distant point, P, the field strength will be the vector sum of the direct ray and the reflected ray. The reflected ray travels farther than the direct ray by the distance BC, where the reflected ray is considered to originate at the image antenna.

YW assumes flat ground

HFTA takes into account diffraction and local terrain

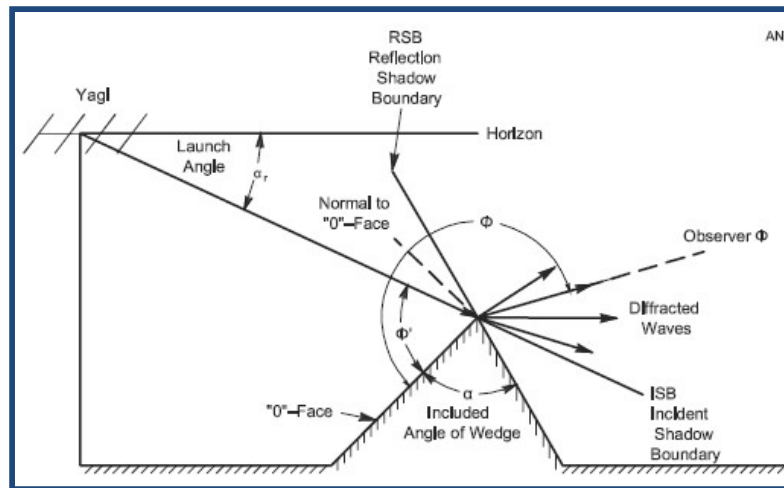


Fig 14.29
©ARRL Antenna Book

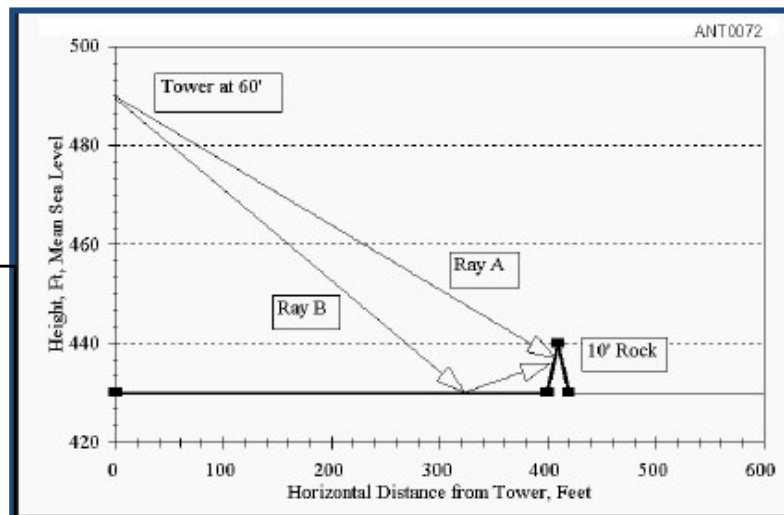


Fig 14.30
©ARRL Antenna Book



HFTA – High Frequency Terrain Assessment

Attributes

- HFTA is a **ray-tracing program** designed to evaluate the effect of foreground terrain on the elevation pattern of **up to four multi-element HF monoband Yagis** in a stack.
- **Models horizontally polarized Yagis**, and “works” with simple horizontal dipoles
- Takes into account the effects of Fresnel horizontal ground-reflection
- Takes into account diffraction
- Includes [Elevation Statistics Files](#) ~ the angle the RF comes from
- Latest version of **earlier “YT” program**



HFTA – High Frequency Terrain Assessment

Limitations

- Does not work with vertical polarization
- Free-space gain assumed for default Yagis;
example: model is 8.5 dBi
- Does not take into account mutual impedance ground effects

Additional Requirement

- Requires a [Terrain Data File](#)



HFTA – High Frequency Terrain Assessment

Agenda

- Overview of HFTA
- What are **Elevation Statistics?**
- What are Terrain Files?
- Using HFTA



Elevation Statistics

Fundamentally → Where is the DX?

At what angle (from the horizon) does the RF arrive?

We must always remember this simple truth:

The ionosphere controls the elevation angle of the received RF at your location, not your antenna!

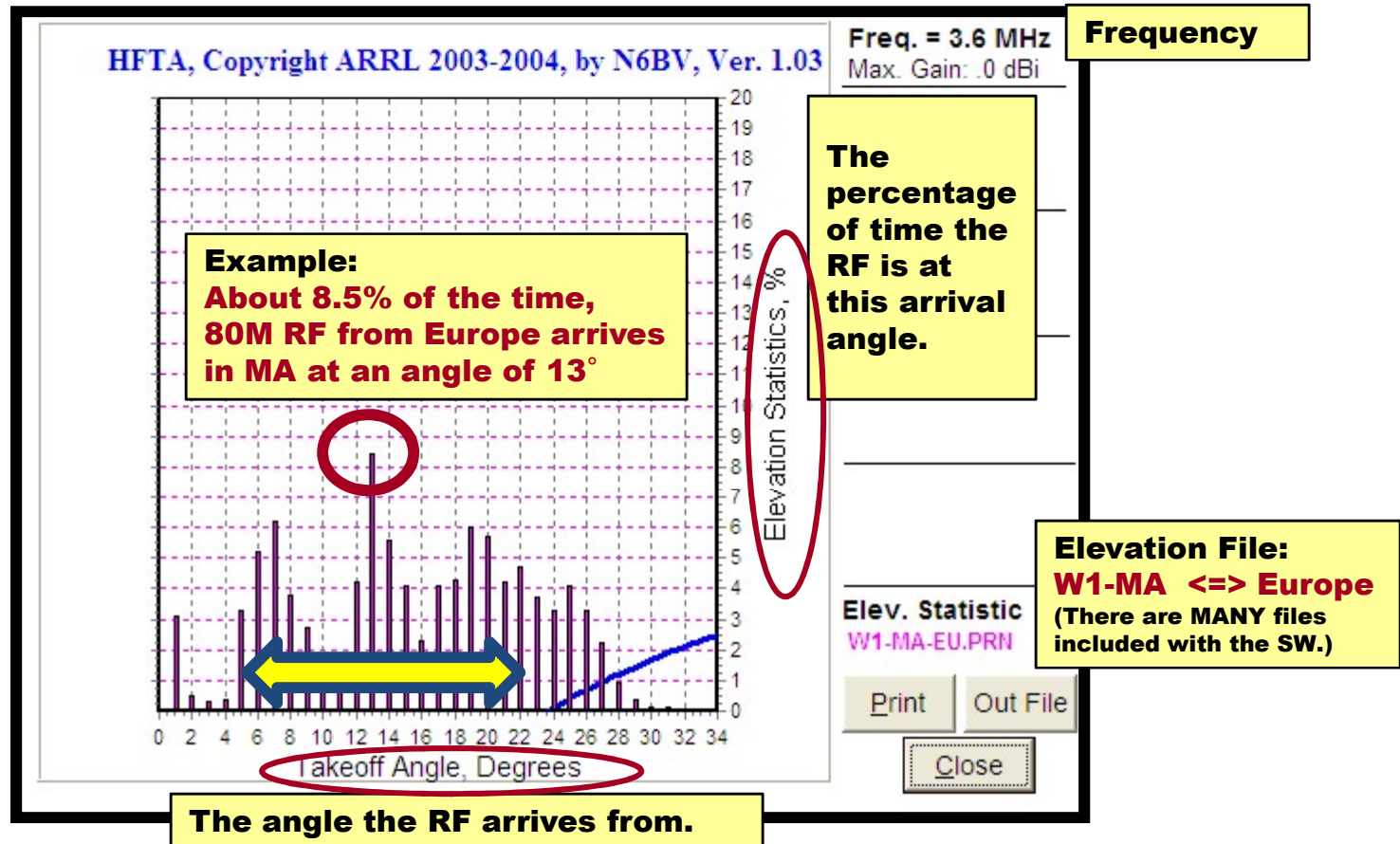


HFTA ~ Elevation Statistics Example: 80M: MA → EU

Note:

This data is an overall average of all time; i.e. for any time, any day, any season, any part of the 11-year sunspot cycle.

Specific propagation “today” will be very limited in angle.

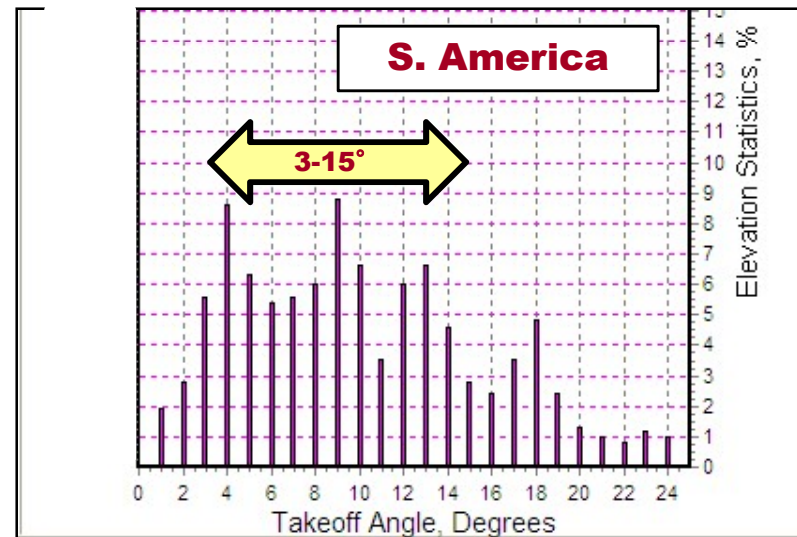
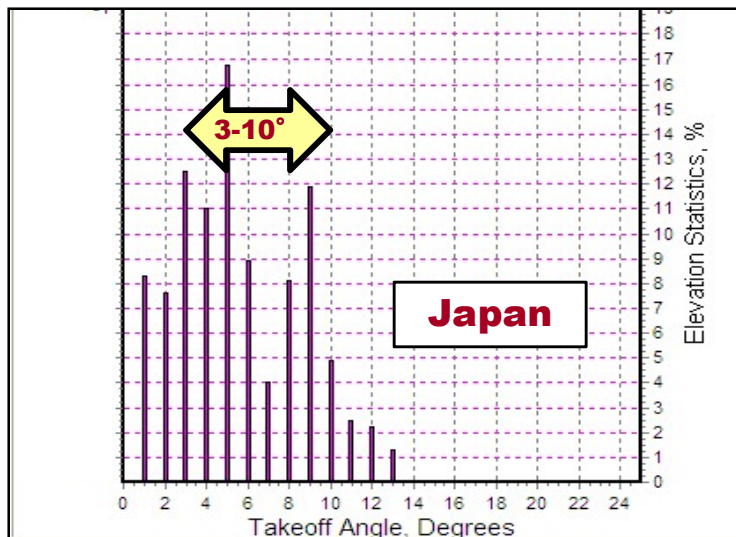
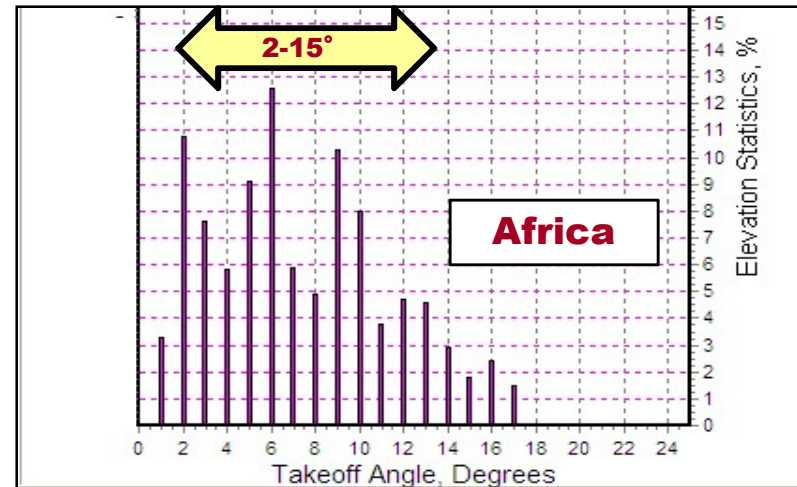
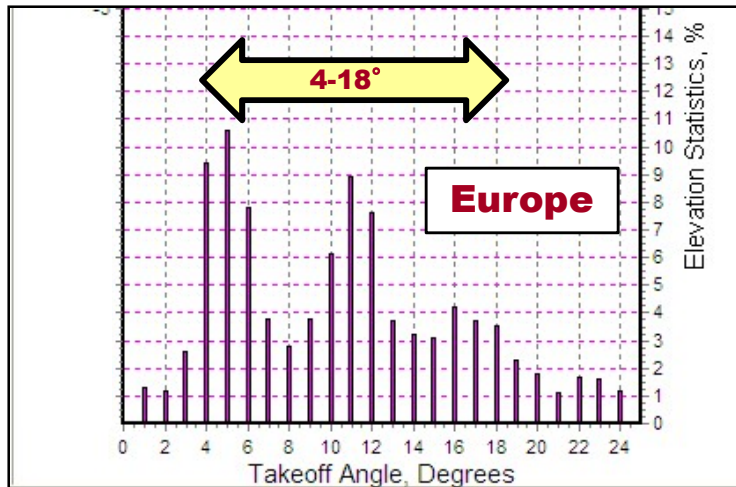


Conclusion, from this one graph:

About 80% of the time, European 80M RF arrives at arrival angles between 5 → 22°



HFTA ~ Elevation Statistics Example: 20M in MA



HFTA – High Frequency Terrain Assessment

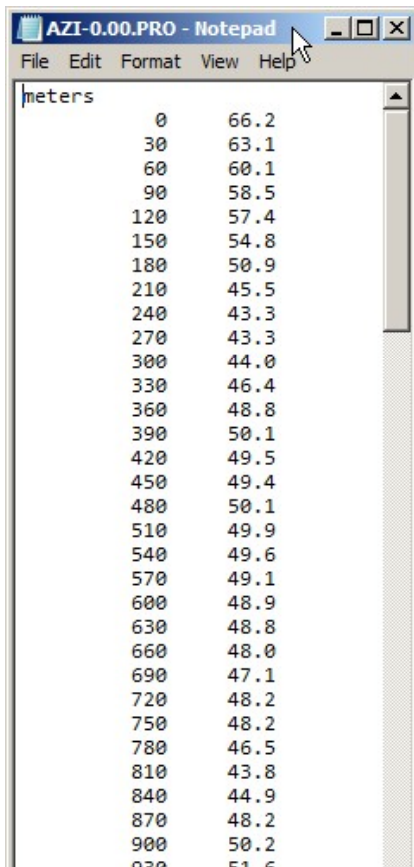
Agenda

- Overview of HFTA
- What are Elevation Statistics?
- What are **Terrain Files**?
- Using HFTA

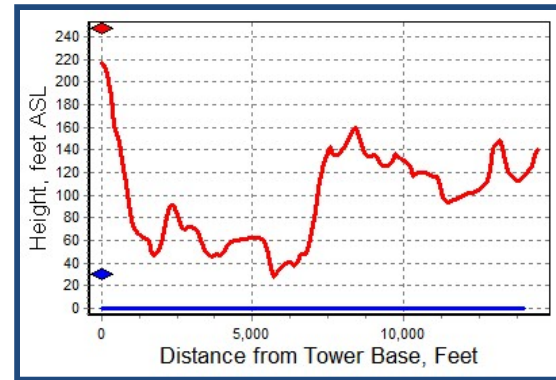


Terrain File → Unique to your location

ASCII files that describe the terrain in all 360 degree directions from your antenna site.



meters	
0	66.2
30	63.1
60	60.1
90	58.5
120	57.4
150	54.8
180	50.9
210	45.5
240	43.3
270	43.3
300	44.0
330	46.4
360	48.8
390	50.1
420	49.5
450	49.4
480	50.1
510	49.9
540	49.6
570	49.1
600	48.9
630	48.8
660	48.0
690	47.1
720	48.2
750	48.2
780	46.5
810	43.8
840	44.9
870	48.2
900	50.2
930	51.6



~~It used to be difficult to obtain:~~

- *Measure from a topo map*
- *Pull from xxx.gov web site*
- *Use MicoDEM to generate*

Now it's easy:

- <https://paas.k6tu.net>
- *Create a free account*
- *>> HF Terrain Analysis*
 - *At bottom under "Documentation"*
- *Read directions & request a Profile*
- *Download*



HFTA – High Frequency Terrain Assessment

Agenda

- Overview of HFTA
- What are **Elevation Statistics?**
- What are **Terrain Files?**
- **Using HFTA**



Using HFTA

Initial Screen

Enter the frequency of interest

Select your terrain file, antennas, & heights

Choose one of HFTA's elevation statistic files

Frequency: MHz

Diffraction:ON

	Terrain Files:	Ant. Type	Heights
1:			feet
2:			feet
3:			feet
4:			feet

☒ Terrain 1
☐ Terrain 2
☐ Terrain 3
☐ Terrain 4

☒ Show Ants.

Elevation File:

Max. Elev. Angle
☒ 20 deg.
☐ 25 deg.
☐ 34 deg.



Using HFTA

Select Antenna Types & Heights

HFTA, HF Terrain Assessment

Version 1.04, Copyright 2003-2004, ARRL, by N6BV, Mar. 02, 2004

Frequency: MHz

Diffraction: ON

Options

Terrain Files: Ant. Type Heights

	Terrain Files	Ant. Type	Heights	
1:				feet
2:				feet
3:				feet
4:				feet

☒ Terrain 1
☐ Terrain 2
☐ Terrain 3
☐ Terrain 4

Elevation file:

Max. Elev. Angle:
☒ 20 deg.
☐ 25 deg.
☐ 34 deg.

Compute!

Enter Heights/Antenna Type

Terrain	Antenna	Height 1	Height 2	Height 3	Height 4	
FLAT.PRO	Dipole	30	0	0	0	Copy
AZI-53.00.PRO	Dipole	30	0	0	0	Copy
AZI-53.00.PRO		30	0	0	0	Copy
		0	0	0	0	Copy

Free-space gain: 2-Ele.=5.5 dBi, 5-Ele.=9.5 dBi, 6-Ele.=12.0 dBi, 4-Ele.=8.5 dBi

Use * for out-of-phase drive;

Cancel OK

Clicking here opens up the folder with your terrain files

Then select the antenna type...

...and enter the height



Using HFTA

HFTA, HF Terrain Assessment

Version 1.04, Copyright 2003-2004, ARRL, by W1DYL, Mar. 02, 2004

Frequency: 28.3 MHz

Elevation File: W1-MA-EU.PRN

	Terrain Files:	Ant. Type	Heights
1:	FLAT.PRO	Dipole	30 feet
2:	AZI-53.00.PRO	Dipole	30 feet
3:	AZI-53.00.PRO	5-Ele.	30 feet
4:			feet

Max. Elev. Angle:
☐ 20 deg.
☐ 25 deg.
☒ 34 deg.

Diffraction: ☐ ON ☐ OFF

☐ Terrain 1
☒ Terrain 2
☐ Terrain 3
☐ Terrain 4

☒ Show Ants.

Enter Freq / Select Elevation File

As a check,
first click on
Plot Terrain

Elevation File:
W1-MA <=> Europe



Using HFTA

HFTA (HF Terrain Assessment)

Version 1.04, Copyright 2003-2004, ARRL, by N6BV, Mar. 02, 2004

Frequency: MHz

Diffraction: ON

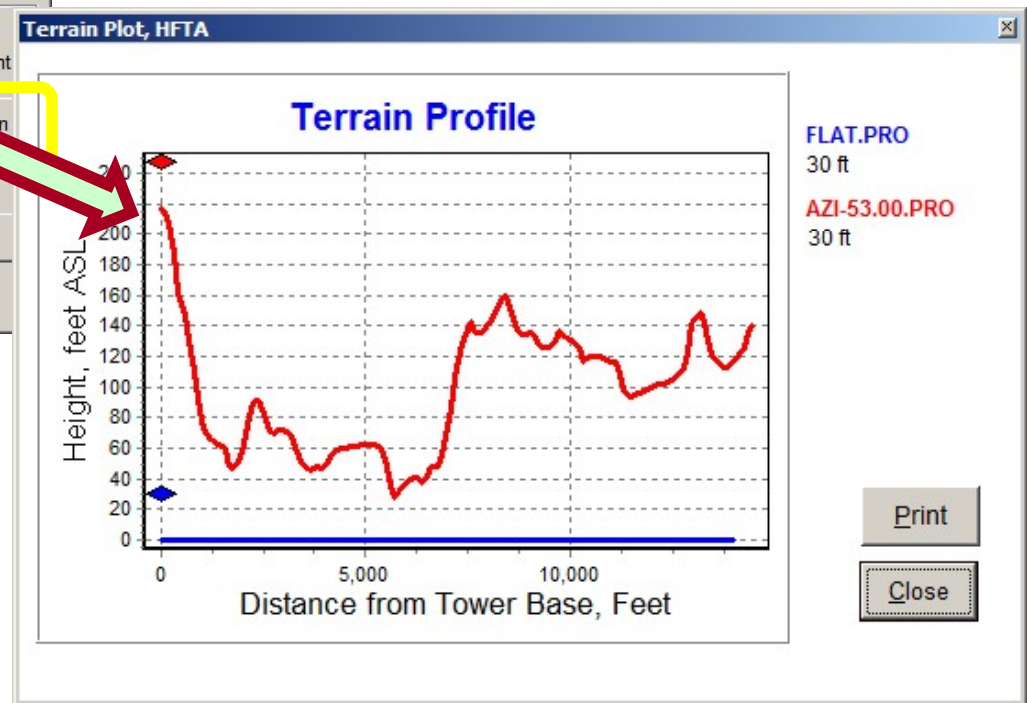
Terrain Files:	Ant. Type	Heights
1 FLAT.PRO	Dipole	30 feet
2 AZI-53.00.PRO	Dipole	30 feet
3 AZI-53.00.PRO	5-Ele.	30 feet
4		

Elevation File:
Elevation file:

Max. Elev. Angle
☐ 20 deg.
☐ 25 deg.
☒ 34 deg.

☒ Terrain 1
☒ Terrain 2 ☒ Show Ant
☐ Terrain 3
☐ Terrain 4

**Terrain from
W1DYJ @ 53° → England**



Using HFTA

HFTA, HF Terrain Assessment

Version 1.04, Copyright 2003-2004, ARRL, by N6BV, Mar. 02, 2004

Frequency: 28.3 MHz

Diffraction: ON

Terrain Files:

	Terrain Files:	Ant. Type	Heights	
1:	FLAT.PRO	Dipole	30	feet
2:	AZI-53.00.PRO	Dipole	30	feet
3:	AZI-53.00.PRO	5-El.	30	feet
4:				feet

Elevation File: W1-MA-EU.PRN

Max. Elev. Angle:

☐ 20 deg.
☐ 25 deg.
☒ 34 deg.

Diffraction Options:

☒ Terrain 1
☒ Terrain 2
☐ Terrain 3
☐ Terrain 4

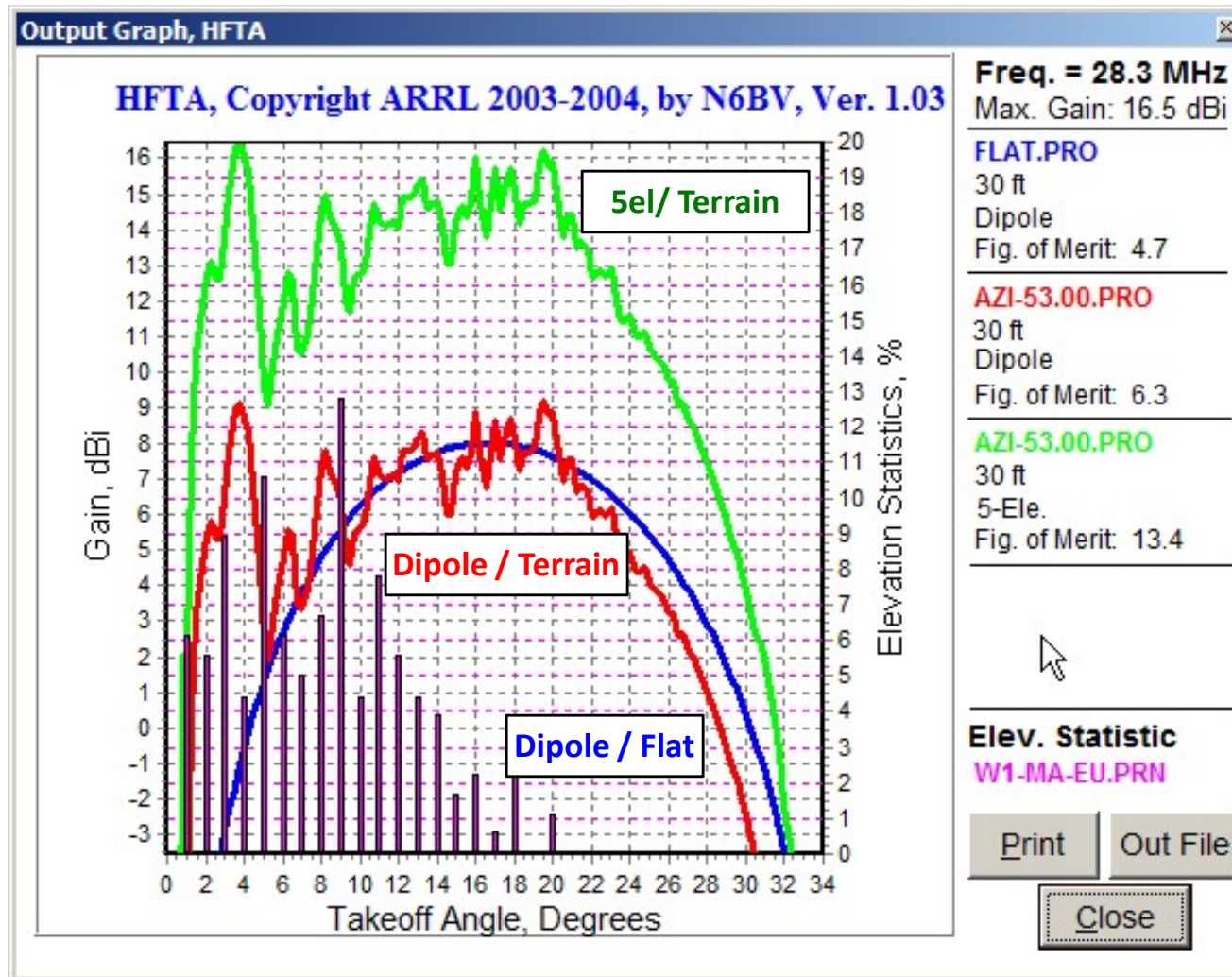
☒ Show Ants.

Buttons: Help, Options, Plot Terrain, Compute!, Exit

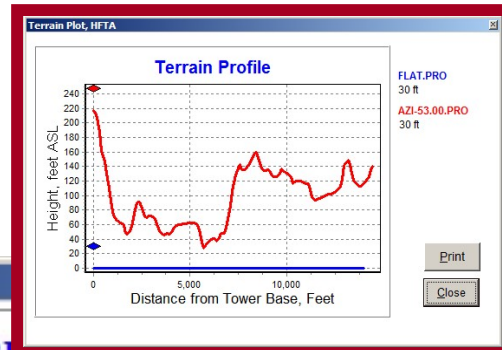
Then : Compute



Using HFTA

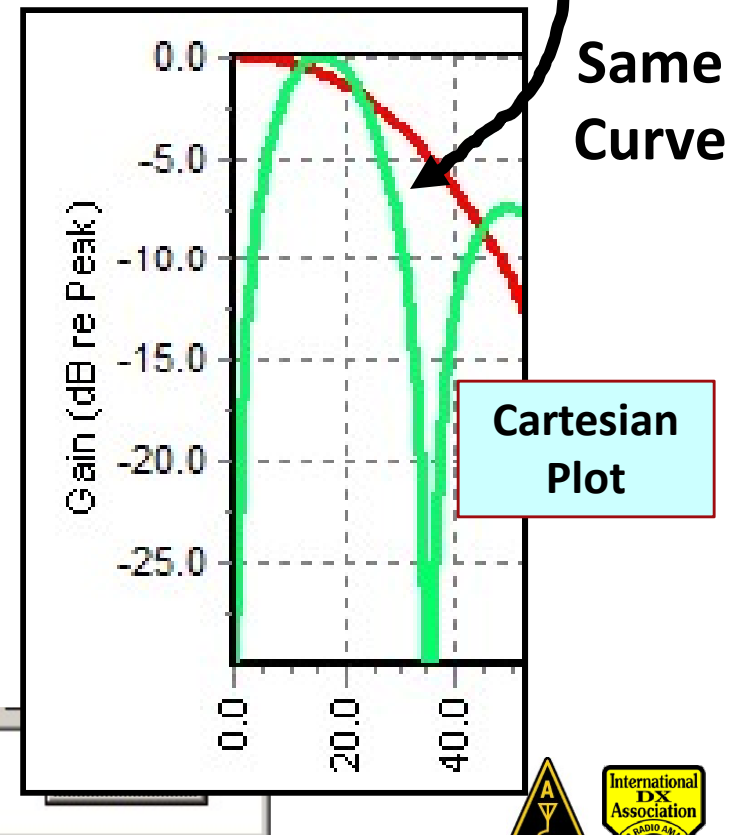
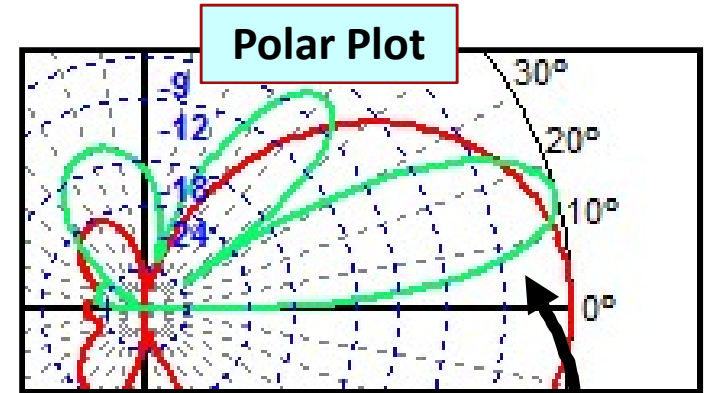
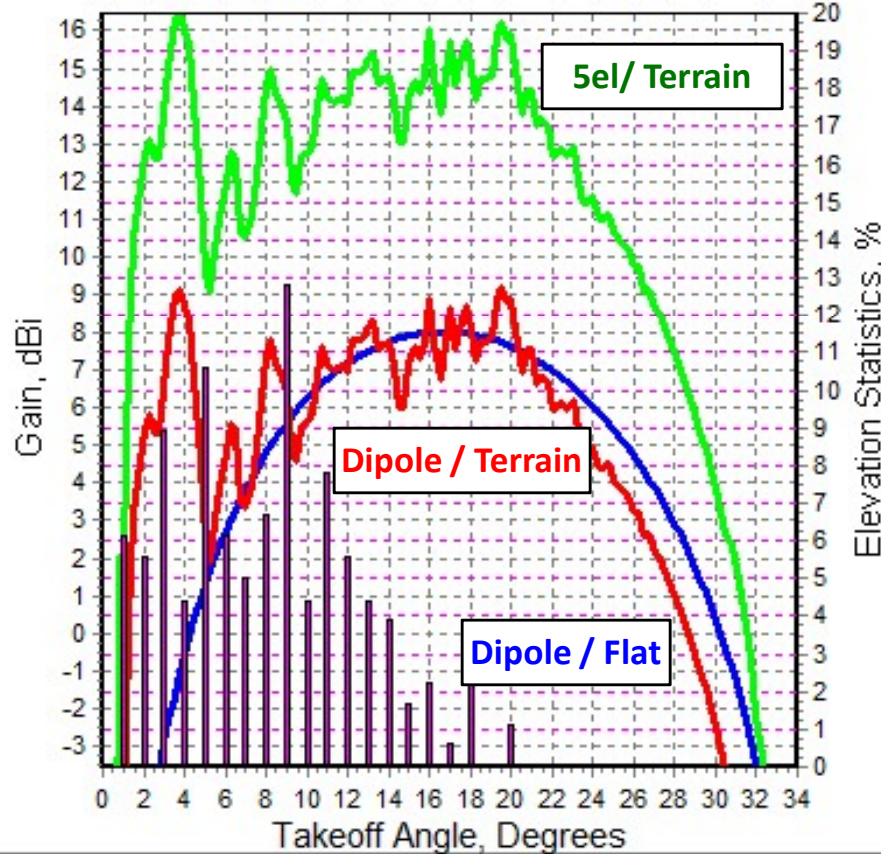


Using HFTA



Output Graph, HFTA

HFTA, Copyright ARRL 2003-2004, by N6BV, Ver. 1.03



Using HFTA

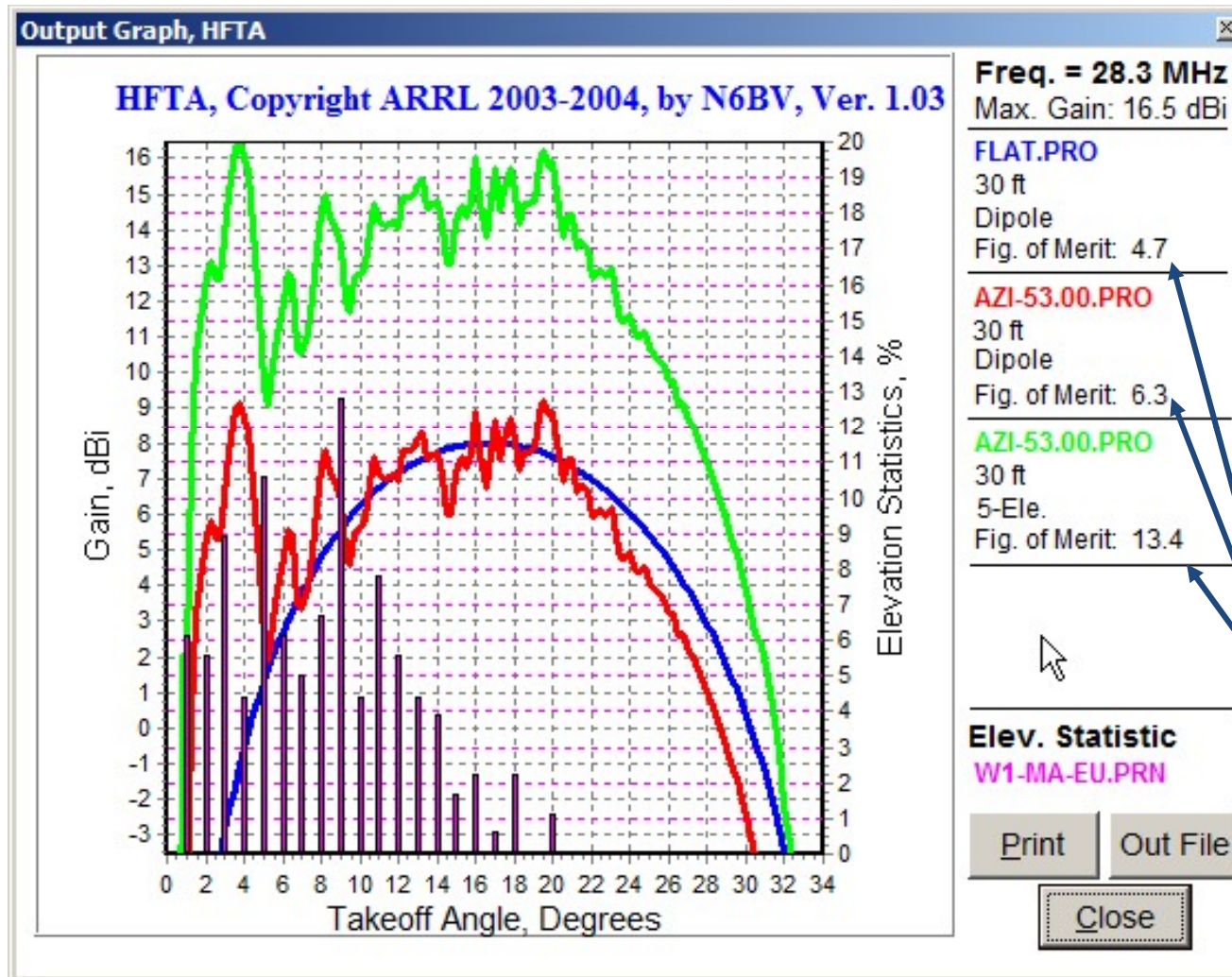


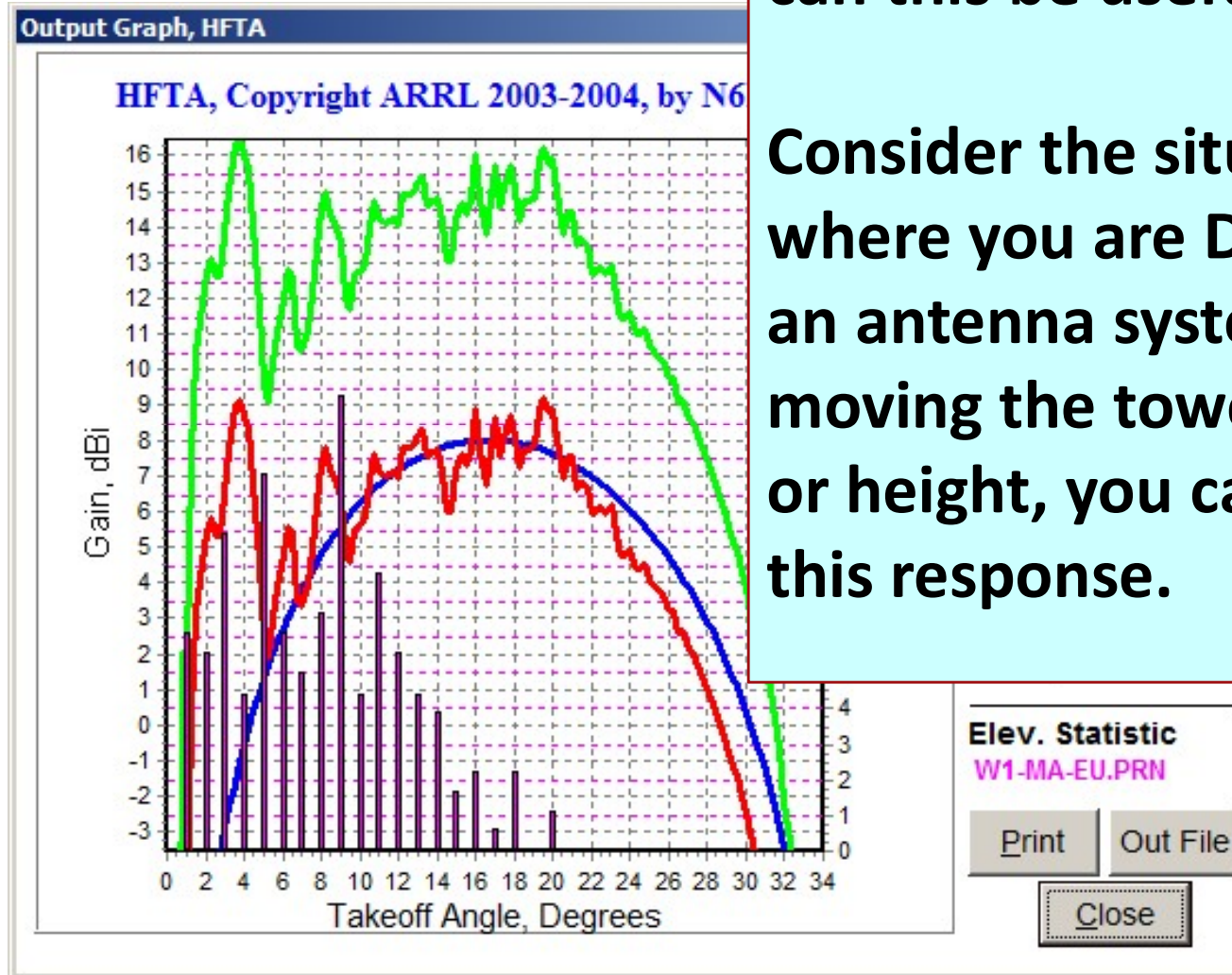
Figure of Merit (dB):
Weighted statistical average
of gain times % open.



Using HFTA

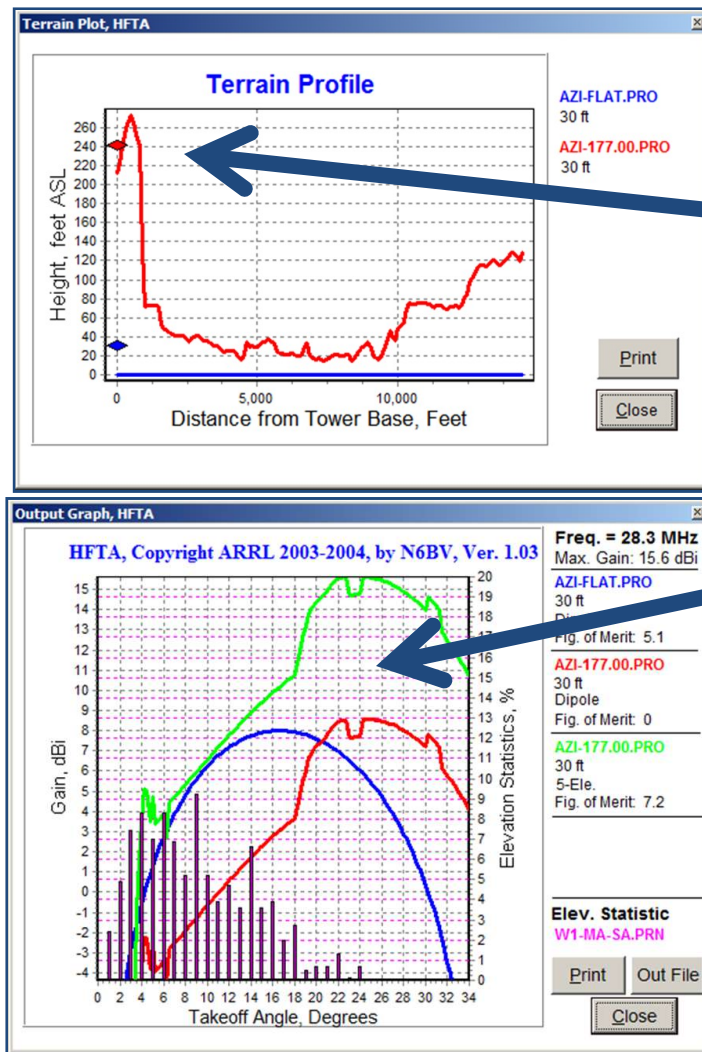
This is an analysis. How can this be useful?

Consider the situation where you are **DESIGNING** an antenna system. By moving the tower location or height, you can optimize this response.



HFTA– HB 5 el 10M Yagi @ 33 BBHR

Example: How to improve my
10M yagi to South America



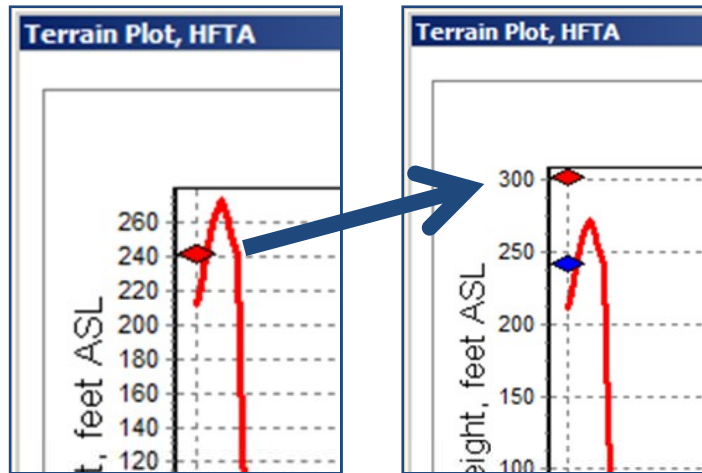
Note that my yagi is
BEHIND the hill to my
south...

...and as a result, the
yagi's response is where
there are no signals
being receive from South
America

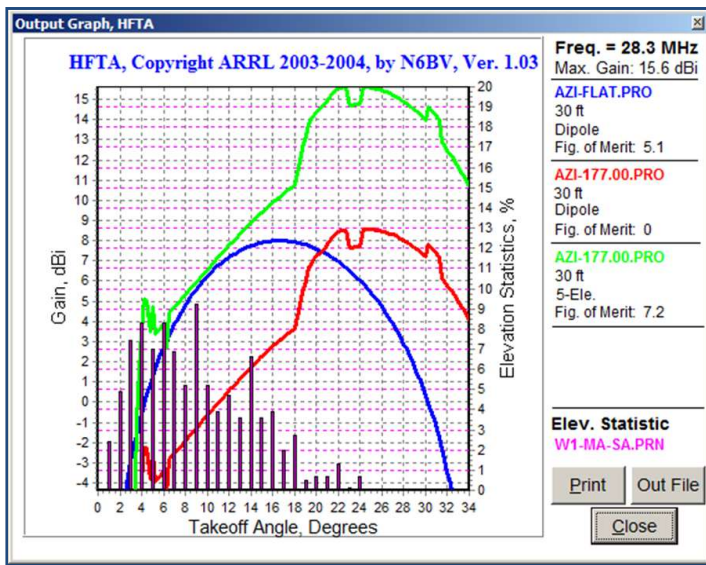


HFTA– HB 5 el 10M Yagi @ 33 BBHR

Example: How to improve my 10M yagi to South America

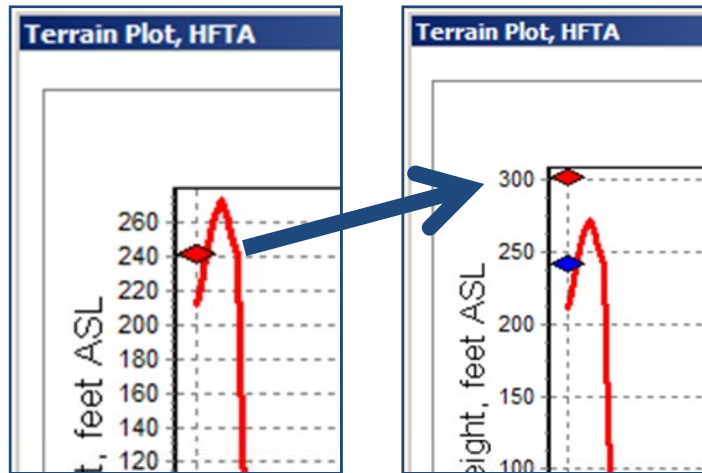


Increase antenna height: 30' → 90'

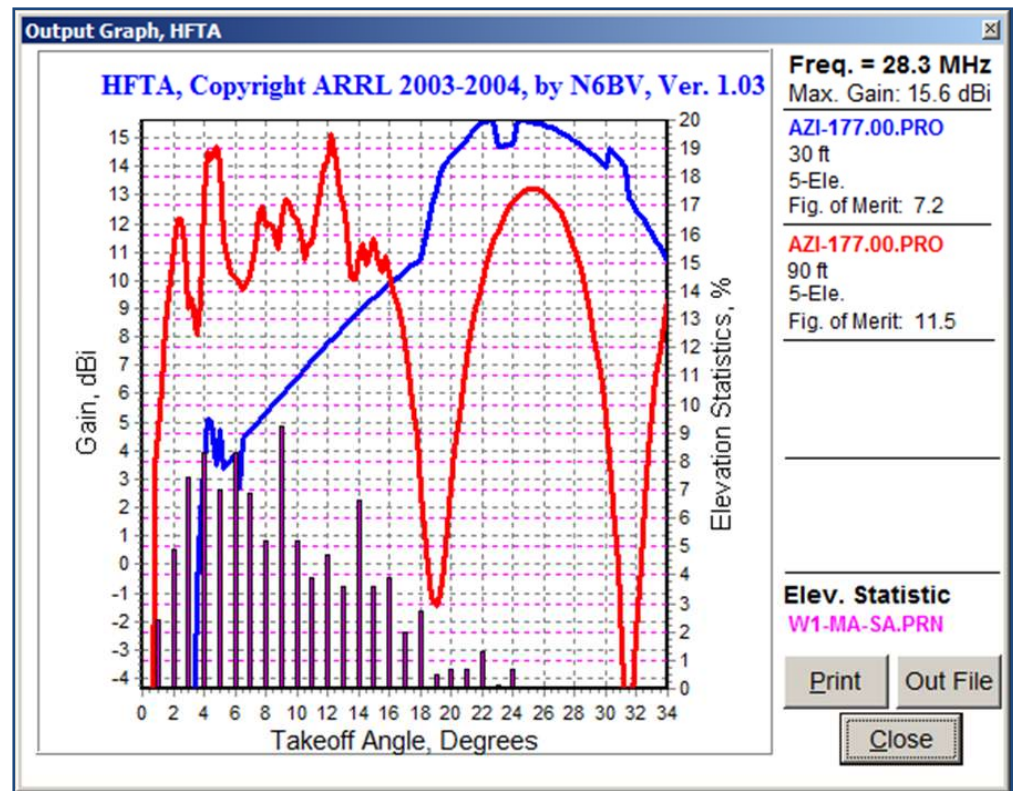
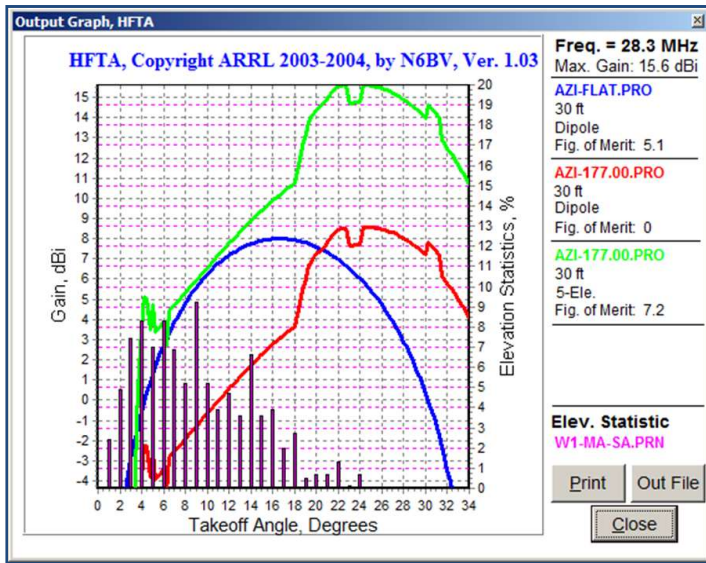


HFTA– HB 5 el 10M Yagi @ 33 BBHR

Example: How to improve my 10M yagi to South America

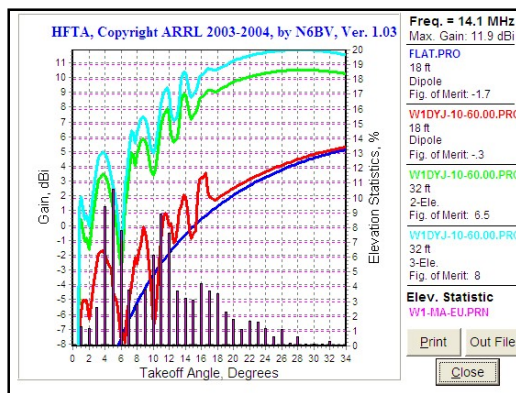


Increase antenna height: 30' → 90'



HFTA – High Frequency Terrain Assessment

Lots of steps. Uses standard Yagis. Helps you understand your local terrain's effects to plan/assess your antenna system.



Conclusions

- **You Can't Beat Physics**
- Understanding antennas
 - understanding **ANTENNA SYSTEMS**
 - all three of these programs will help
- **HOW YOU WANT TO USE YOUR ANTENNA**
- **EFFECTS OF TRANSMISSION LINES**
- **LOCAL TERRAIN**
- **GROUND CHARACTERISTICS**
- All antennas are **COMPROMISES**
- All models are **SIMPLE EXAMPLES** of reality
- Your real antenna **WILL NOT MATCH** your model



Summary

We've looked at:

TLW – Transmission Lines

YW – Simple Yagis

HFTA – Effects of Terrain

We've seen how these software programs can be used to plan your antenna systems

Questions???

“All models are wrong. Some are useful”

British Statistician George Box, 1976



Appendix

- **W1DYJ Antennas in Woburn MA**
- **W1DYJ Antennas in Harpswell ME**
- **ARRL Handbook SW**
- **ON4UN's Low Band Dxing SW**
- **Additional ARRL Antenna Book SW**
- **Abstract / Bio**

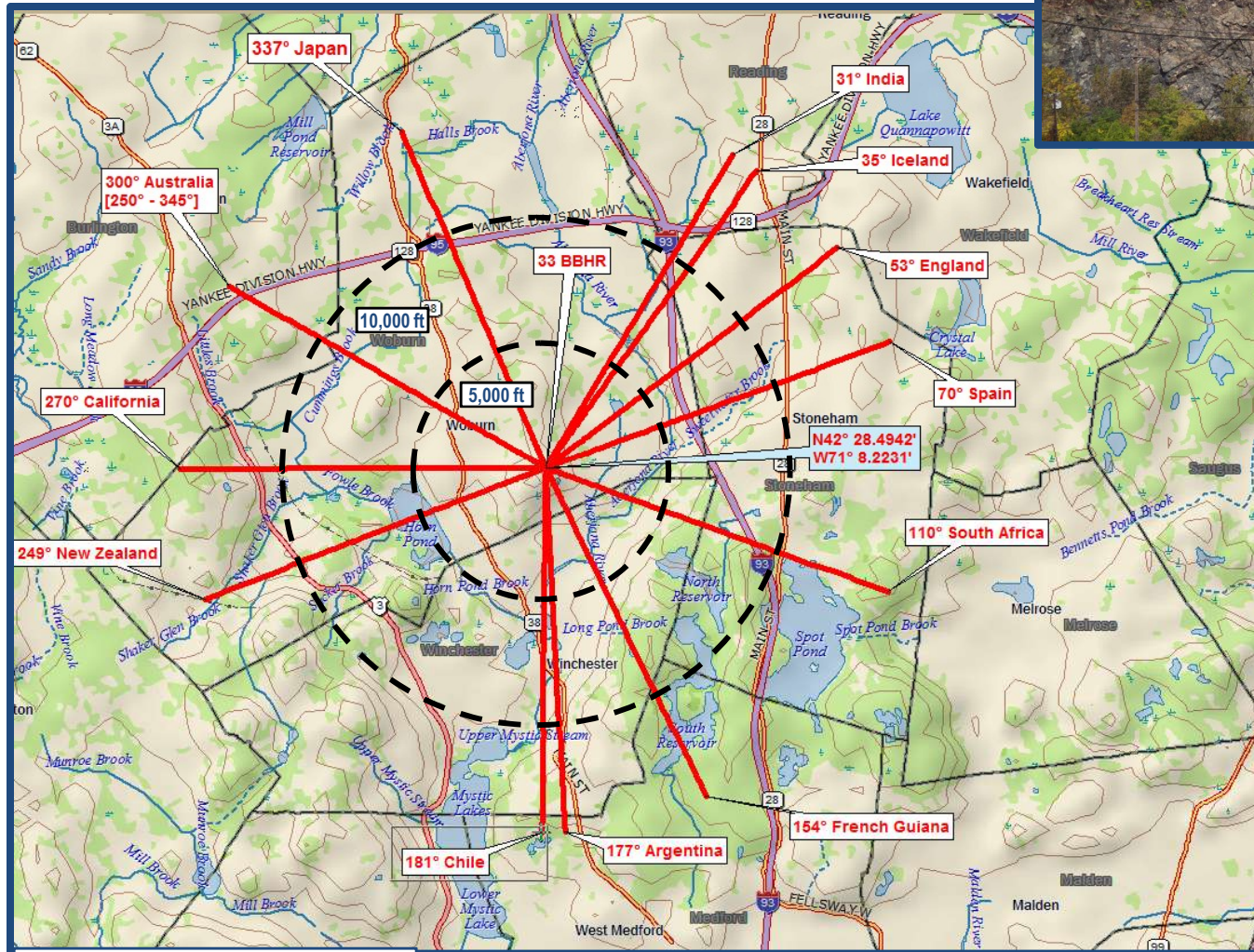
<https://www.qsl.net/w1dyj/>



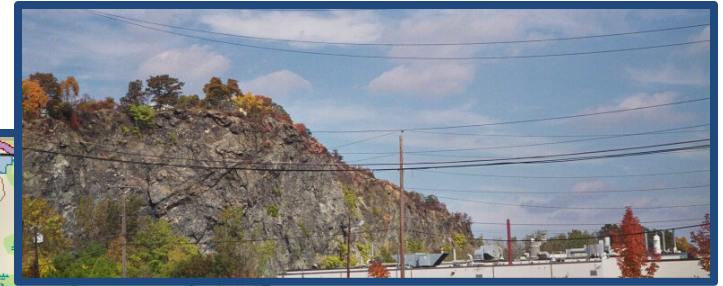
33 Blueberry Hill Rd – Woburn Antennas



DX Azimuths @ 33 BBHR



Delorme Topo USA 7.0



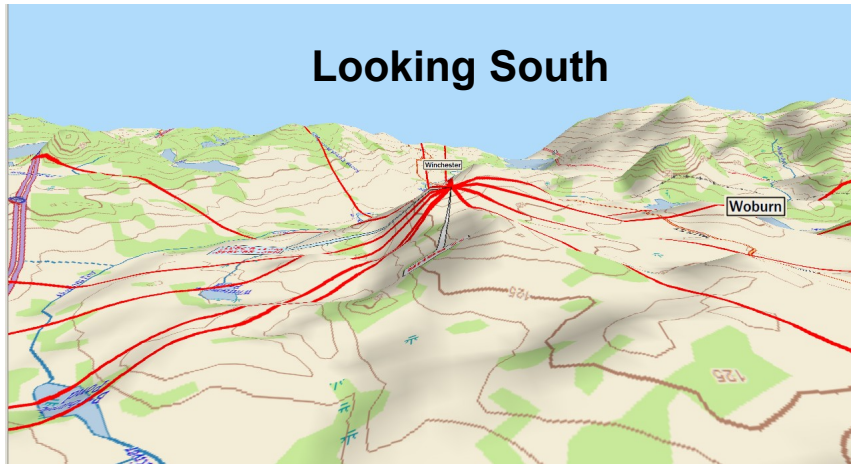
INDEXA

33 BBHR 3D Maps

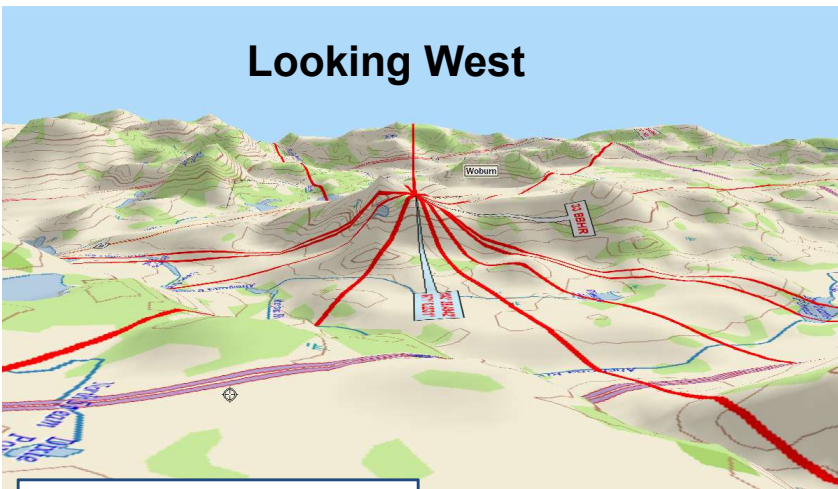
Looking North



Looking South

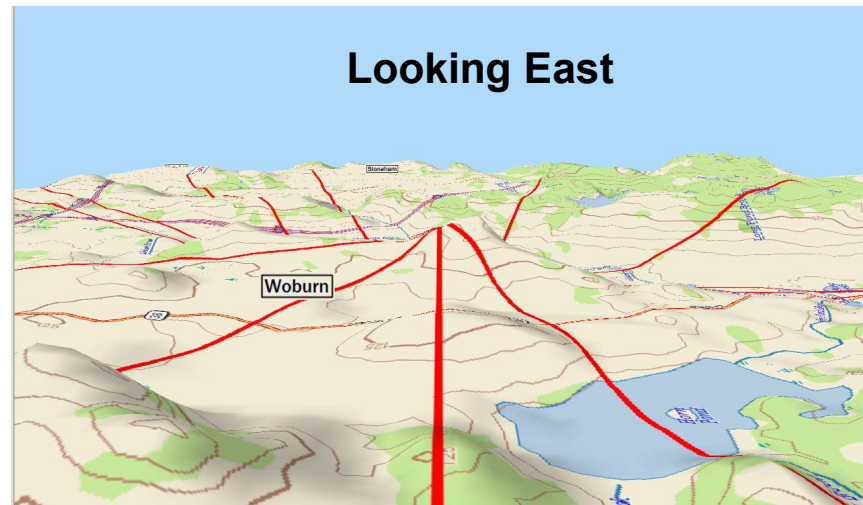


Looking West



Delorme Topo USA

Looking East



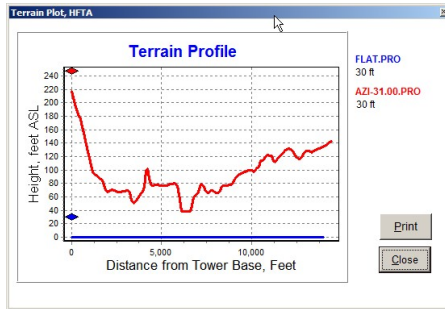
Note: Vertical dimensions are enhanced by a factor of 8



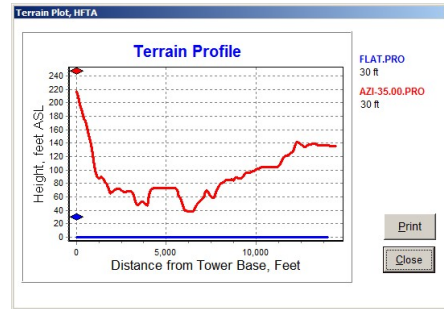
INDEXA

HFTA – Local Terrain @ 33 BBHR

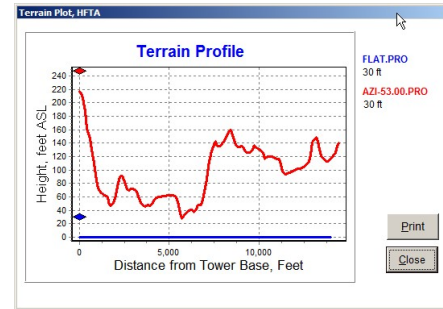
31° India



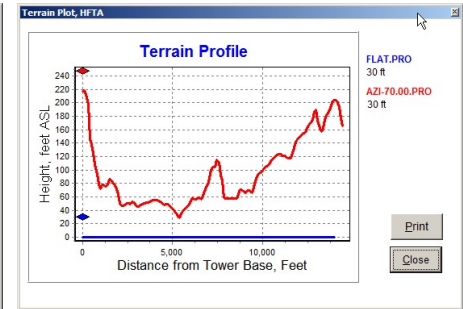
35° Iceland / EurRussia



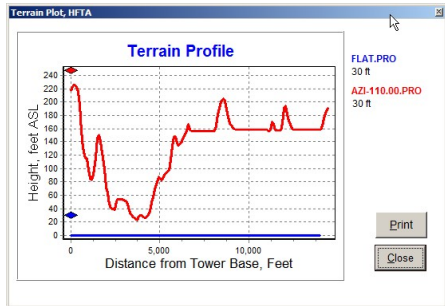
53° England



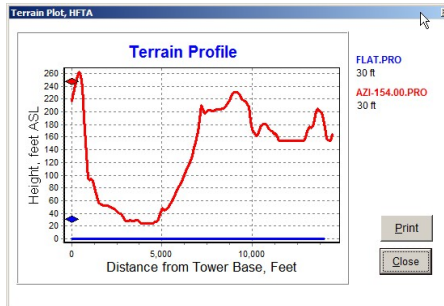
70° Spain



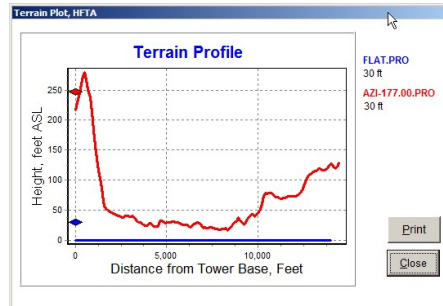
110° South Africa



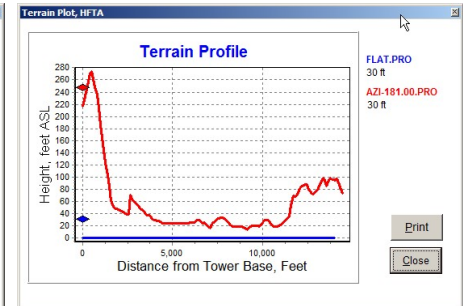
154° French Guiana



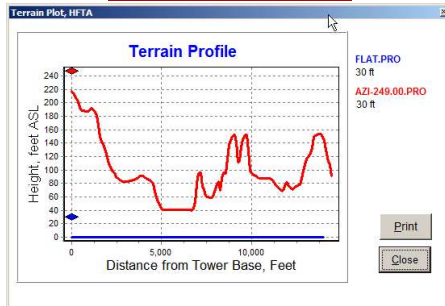
177° Argentina



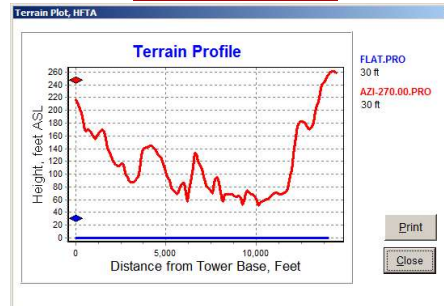
181° Chile



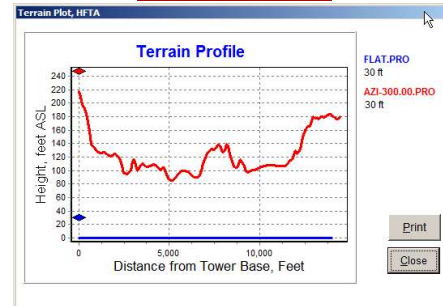
249° New Zealand



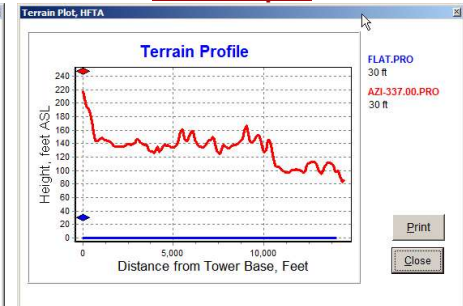
270° California



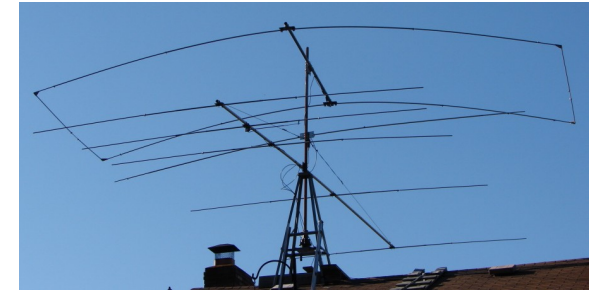
300° Australia



337° Japan

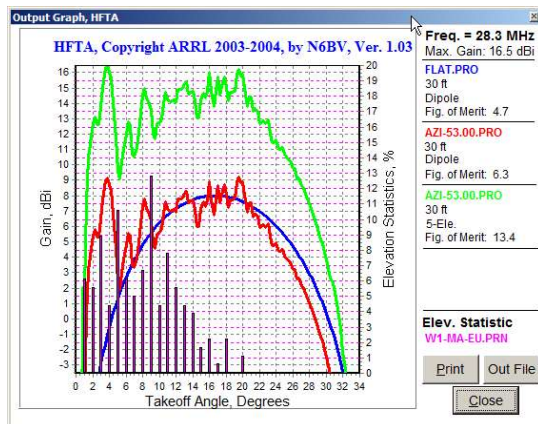
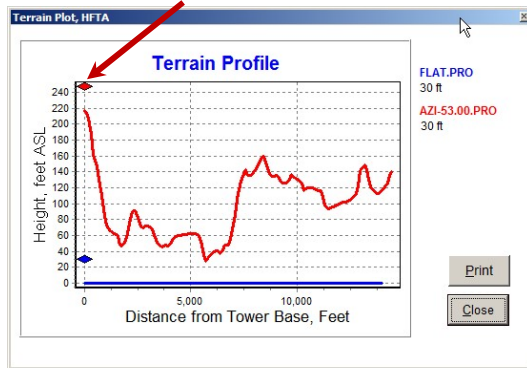


HFTA– HB 5 el 10M Yagi @ 33 BBHR



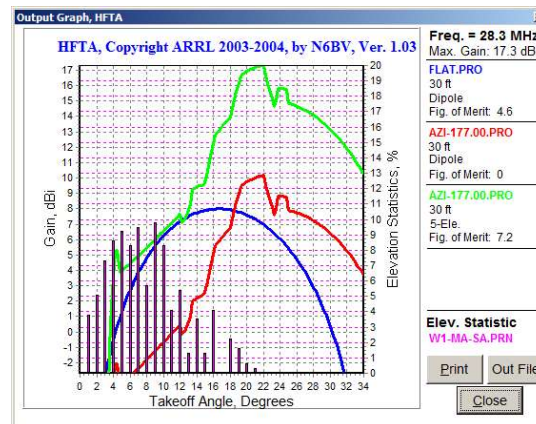
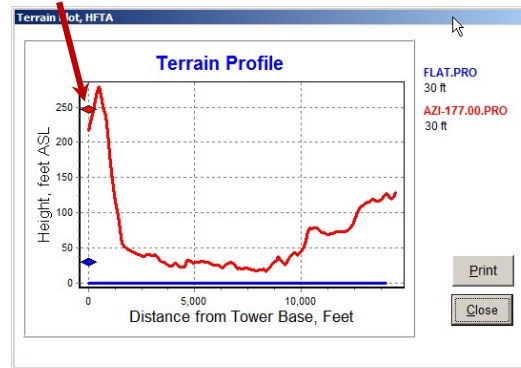
53° England

Note: Antennas are IN FRONT of Hill



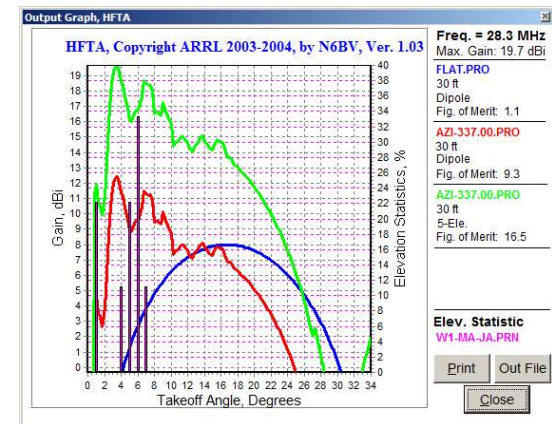
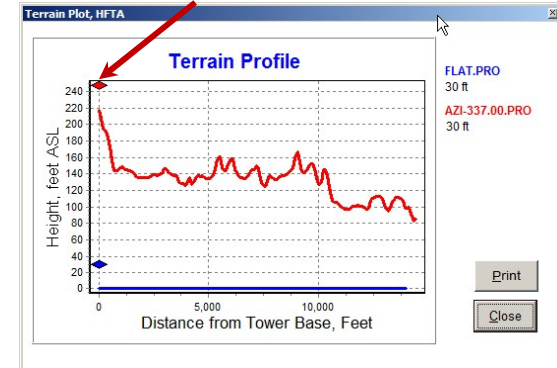
177° Argentina

Note: Antennas are BEHIND Hill

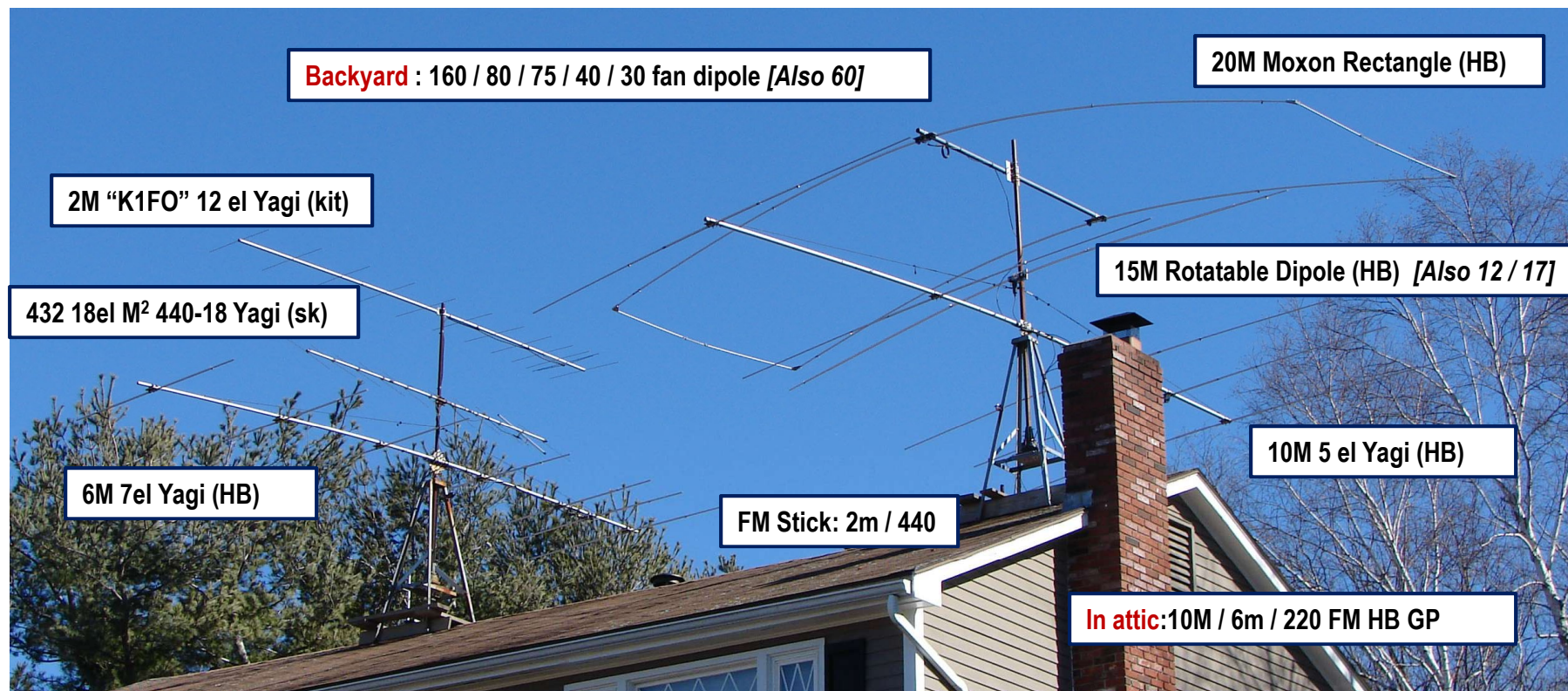


337° Japan

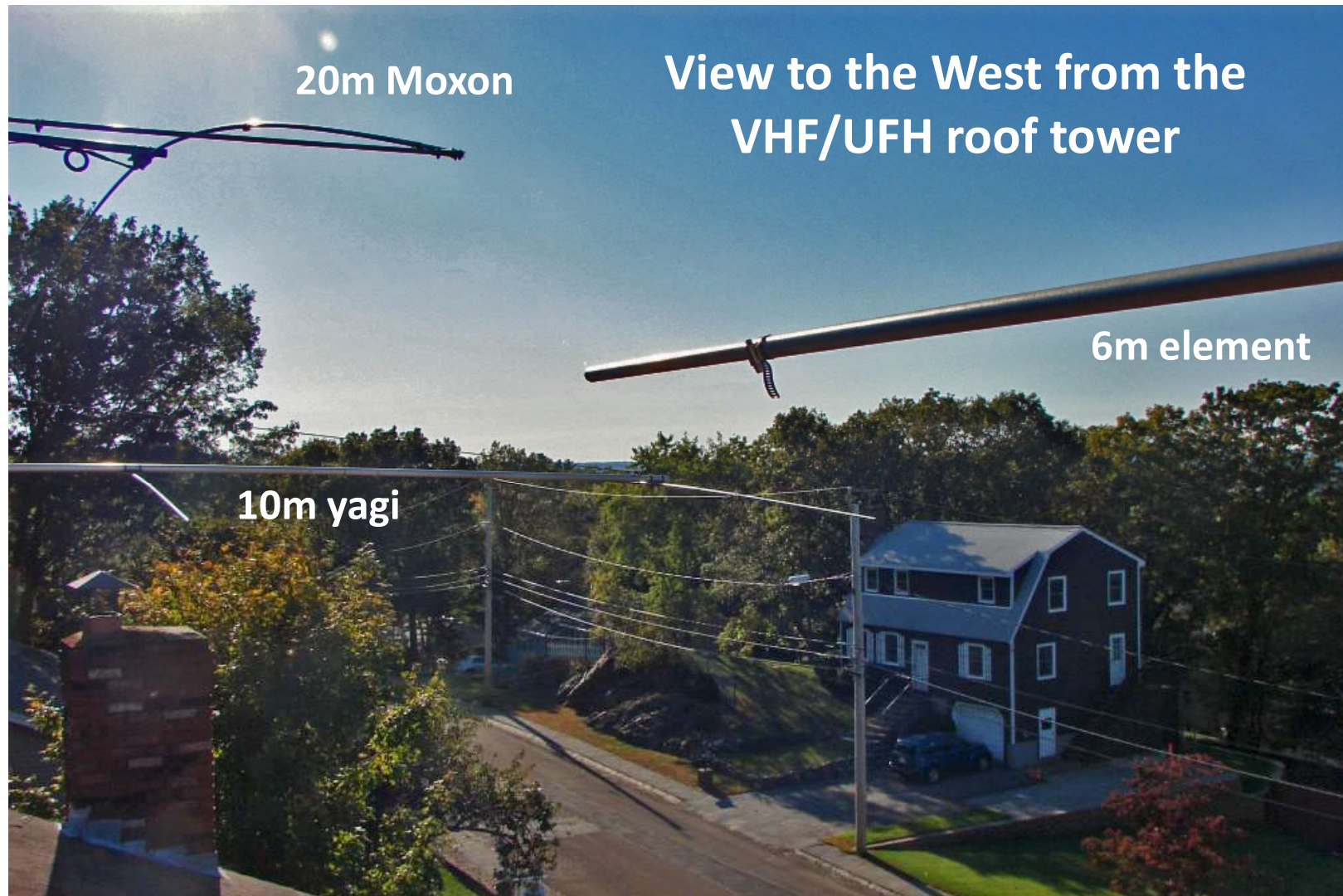
Note: Antennas are IN FRONT of Hill



33 Blueberry Hill Rd – Woburn Antennas



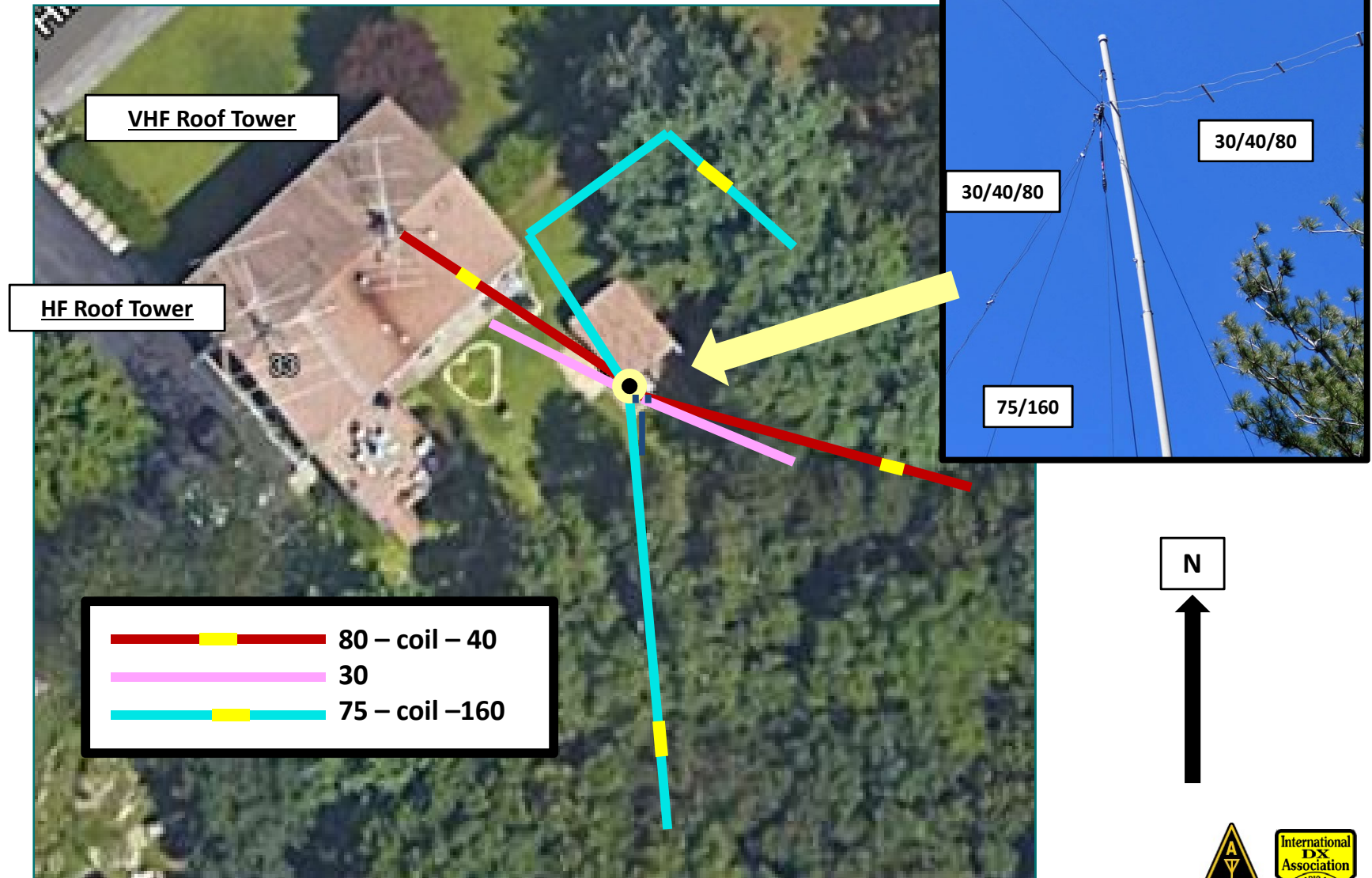
33 Blueberry Hill Rd -- Woburn



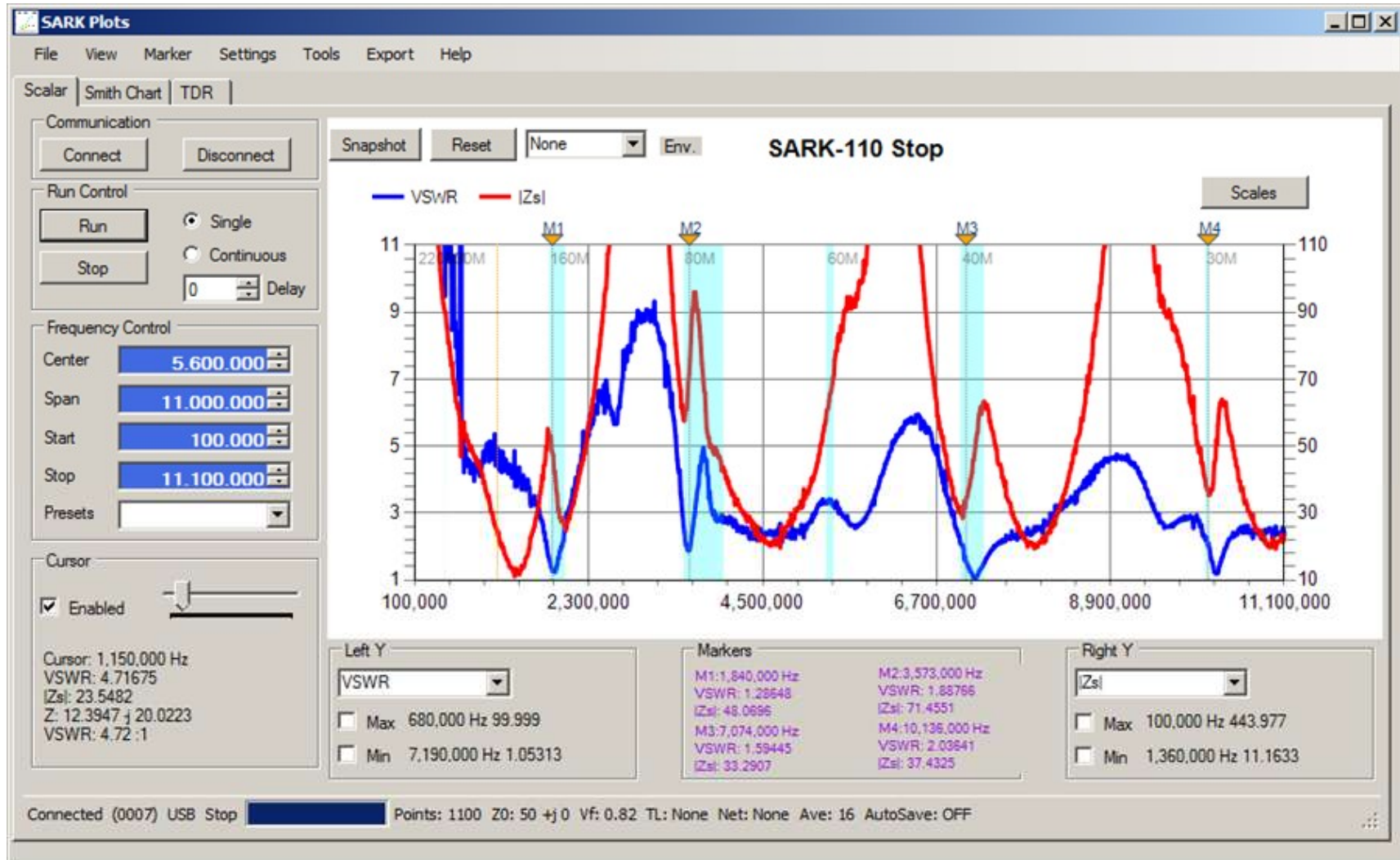
W1DYJ Antennas in Woburn MA



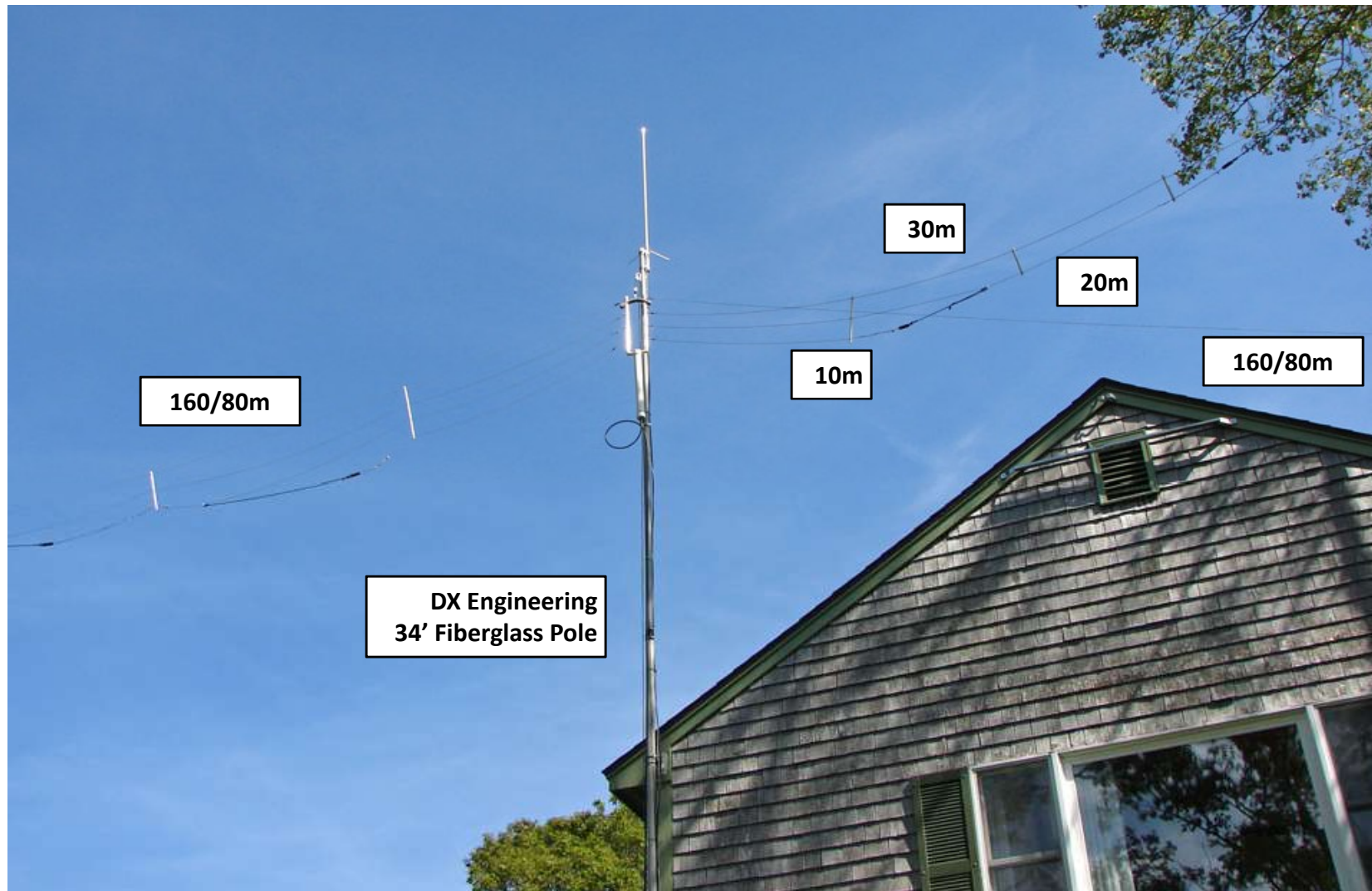
W1DYJ Antennas in Woburn MA



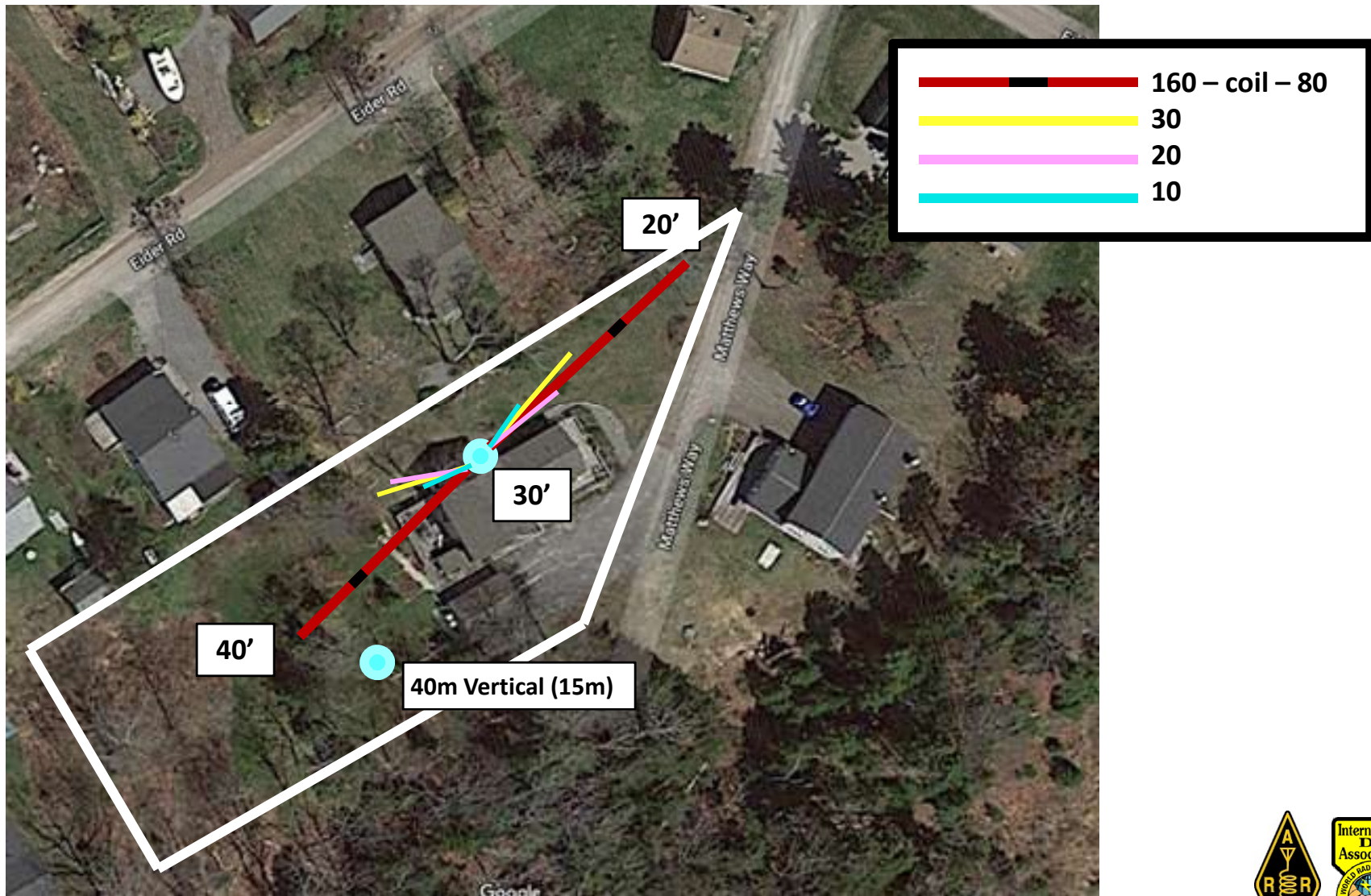
Woburn MA ~ Low HF SWR/|Zs| sweep



W1DYJ Antennas in Harpswell ME *[no longer there]*



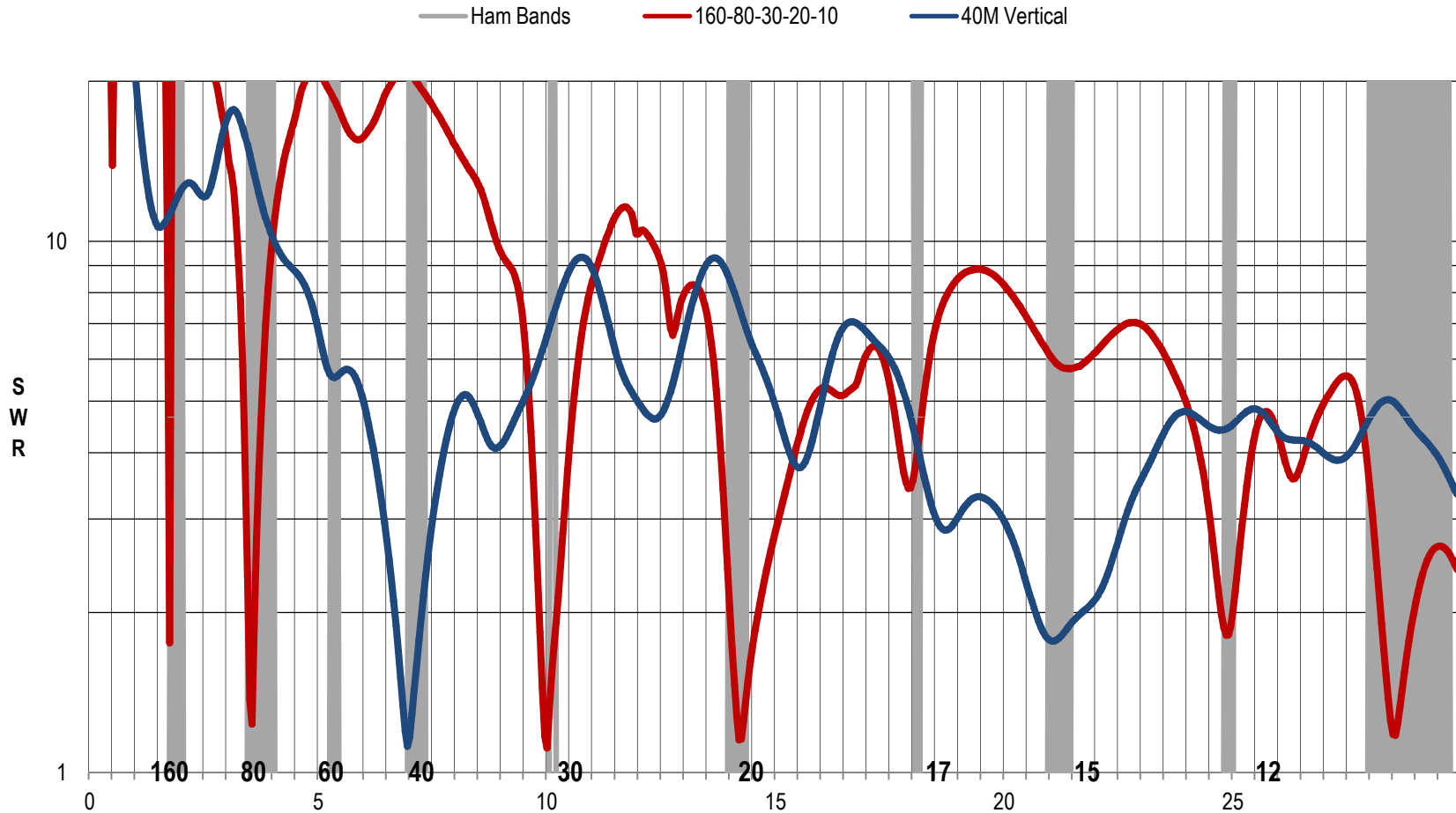
W1DYJ Antennas in Harpswell ME *[no longer there]*



INDEXA

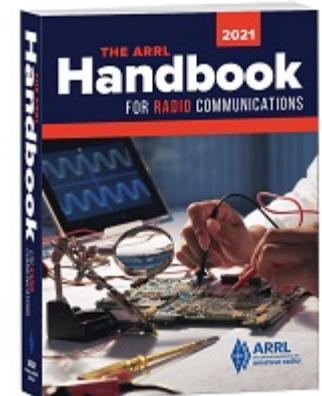
Harpswell ME ~ SWR sweep *[no longer there]*

Harpswell Antenna Sweep 0.1 MHz => 30MHz Oct 2017



SW: ARRL Handbook

- **TubeCalculator** Design tube-type High Power linears
- **ClassE** Designs single-ended Class E RF amplifier
- **Diplexer** Designs both high-pass/low-pass and band-pass/band-stop types of diplexers
- **Helical** Designs and analyzes helical-resonator bandpass filters usually used in VHF and UHF
- **Elsie** A lumped-element filter design and analysis program (the student edition)
- **MeterBasic** Designs and prints professional-quality analog meter scales
- **OptLowpass** Designs and analyzes transmitter output low-pass filters
- **PIEL** Designs and analyzes pi-L networks for transmitter output
- **QuadNet** Designs and analyzes active quadrature networks
- **SVCFilter** Standard-value component routine to design low-pass and high-pass filters
- **Supplemental Files** Additional discussion, additional projects, full-size PC board etching patterns, program examples and other useful information



W1DYJ's

1962

1968

1970

1996

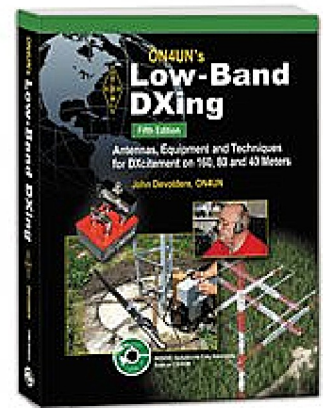
2012

2023



SW: ARRL OH4UN's Low Band DXing

- **Conversion Calculator** Excel spreadsheet that converts signal levels typically encountered at receiver inputs between μV , mV , $\text{dB}\mu\text{V}$, μW , etc
- **Receiver Levels** Excel spreadsheet tool shows you levels involved with radio signals from transmit power to received signal
- **RX noise figure and MDS calculation** Excel spreadsheet tool shows you the relation between receiver bandwidth, temperature and receiver MDS
- **ON4UN Low-Band DXing Software (DOS)**
Propagation Software; Mutual Impedance and Driving Impedance; Coax Transformer/Smith Chart; Impedance, Current and Voltage Along Feed Lines; Two- and Four-Element Vertical Arrays; The L Network; Series/Shunt Input L-Network Iteration; Shunt/Series Impedance Network; Line Stretcher (Pi and T) Stub Matching; Parallel Impedances (T Junction); SWR Value and SWR Iteration; Radiation Angle for Horizontal Antennas; Coil Calculation; Gamma-Omega and Hairpin Matching; Element Taper
- **ON4UN-Yagi-Design (DOS)**
The Analyze Module; Generic Dimensions; Element Strength; Element Taper; Mechanical Yagi Balance; Yagi Wind Area; Matching; Optimize Gamma/Omega; Feed-Line Analysis; Rotating Mast Calculation



W1DYJ's
4th Edition
2005

OH4UN John Devoldere (SK)

Out of Print



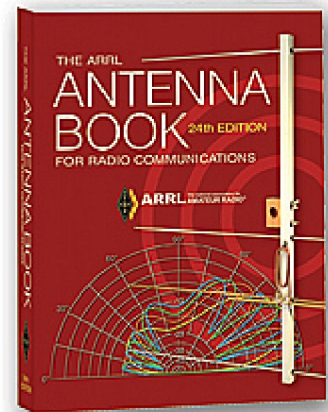
SW: ARRL Antenna Book

- **TLW** Computes parameters for transmission lines and antenna-tuners
- **YW** Computes parameters for Yagi-Uda antennas
- **HFTA** Evaluates the effect of local terrain on the launch of HF signals

→ **24th Edition: Software is available online**

- Many of the apps from previous editions are available at:
www.arrl.org/antenna-book

AAT	Automatically evaluates antenna tuner networks
Arrayfeed1	Computes parameters necessary for feeding 2-element and 4-element phased-arrays.
GAMMA	Computes the parameters for a gamma match
LPCAD30	For computing LPDA designs
MOBILE	Evaluating and designing mobile whip antennas and coils
Range-Bearing	Computes the range/bearing from one lat/lon point to another
SCALE	Scales Yagi designs to other frequencies



W1DYJ's

17th Ed. – 1994

23rd Ed. – 2015

24th Ed. – 2019

EZNEC 7

Roy Lewallen W7EL (retired)

