OSSBN Helpful Guide to Having Better Individual Traffic Handling Capabilities.

How can we help?

1 – New traffic handler with low signals

2 – Older traffic handlers with better stations and antennas

Two ideas come to mind, and we are not going to get a bunch of theory involved here but just a few commonsense ideas that have been proven to work. In the past couple of years, we have had a lot of trouble with band conditions that were/are very difficult to deal with. Let's get started.

1 - Antennas are the most important!!!

A – The simplest antenna and least expensive is the wire dipole. 80- and 40-meter wire dipoles cut to the desired frequency you will be using, center fed, using a balun and fed to the

transceiver with a coax feed line and the only other piece of equipment in line could/should be a watt meter for monitoring. No tuner needed. I have used this idea/theory for all my traffic handling years, and I live on a 50’ by 100’ lot in the city. You do not need a hundred-dollar store bought antenna. If you have a limited lot to work with, the dipole does not have to be in a straight line. Mine is not. More like “L” shaped or as an inverted “V “. Remember to keep it simple. This is a great antenna to get on the air as a traffic handler. One other point that comes to mind is trying to get your antenna up in the air about 30 feet if possible. The theory is that it’s a good starting point. Higher if you are able too. So many feet for every ¼ wavelength, I think.

2 - Next is the TX/RX equipment

A – There are two ways to go with equipment.

1 – Older equipment that has high input power to the finals.

2 – Newer equipment with the 100-watt output and use an amplifier. Remember we are talking about the least expensive and most efficient way to get on the air, to have a good signal, to get on the air as a traffic handler.

In closing I realize there are all kinds of TX/RX equipment available and there is a lot of older excellent equipment available also. I use two different transceivers. One is the Drake TR-7 with a 250-watt input and the other is a Drake TR-4 with a 300-watt input. You can buy these pieces of equipment at a fraction of the cost of a new transceiver, regardless of the manufacturer.

If you like you can set up a separate traffic handling station with the antenna and transceiver set up on the desired frequency needed for 75- and 40-meter traffic handling. I know people who do this, myself being one.

I know most of you have a lot of good equipment and different antennas already. Try an experiment with a simple dipole and see what the difference might be. Keep your TX/RX equipment, use hi/low power. Just use a

dipole. See if you can hang it broadside to the rest of the state from your location. Mine is broadside north/south.

Remember the idea is to get on the air with a good to great signal, that won't break the bank. If possible, set up a station just for traffic handling on 80/40 meters. You will be amazed at the difference.

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