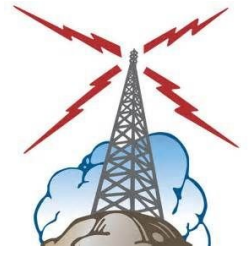




# SLATS



St. Louis Amateur Television Society

FEBRUARY 2025

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SLATS newsletter is published monthly on the 15th as the official newsletter for the St Louis Amateur Television Society.

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**Weekly Nets**  
7pm Fall/Winter  
8pm Spring/Summer  
WØATN 440 in 426out 4Mhz BW  
Talk-back radio: 144.34 MHz

***-ON THE NEWS FRONT-***

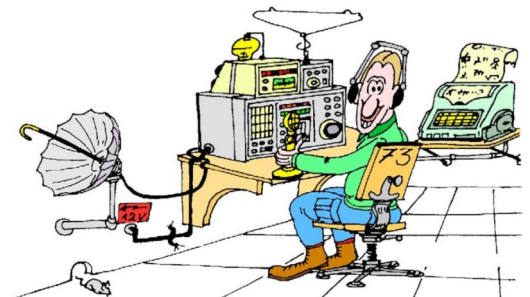
**SLATS offer to loan gear for prospective STL area ATV hams**

SLATS has ATV equipment for loaning out to prospective hams expressing an interest in getting on ATV. If this is you, then click (<https://slatsatn.net/want-to-try-atv/>) .



Typical Digital ATV Station. Just add a TV, camera and antenna.

**WØATN NET CONTROL  
FOR  
FEBRUARY**



**EARLE  
WØFCH**

**February 2025**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29 SLATS NET 7:00 p.m.	30	31	1
2	3	4	5 SLATS NET 7:00 p.m.	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 SLATS NET 7:00 p.m.	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 SLATS NET 7:00 p.m.	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 SLATS NET 7:00 p.m.	27	28	1



## FROM THE PRESIDENTS DESK

( Article submitted by: Mel KØPFX )

### What's new in the KØPFX ham shack?

This past couple of weeks, I spent some time cleaning up the wiring behind the operating positions. It is amazing how many cables are required for our "wireless" modes (CW, DV, FT8, RTTY, SSTV, and the list goes on including DATV). I removed a dozen or so cables no longer needed due to the change in how modes are configured with my radios. FreeDV's ezDV, a digital HF voice interface is completely wireless using WiFi to connect to the Flex radio. Bluetooth is used for my Rigblaster Blue interface to eliminate the cabling connecting to the radio. Bluetooth is used to wirelessly connect the mic to my new iCOM 5100D VHF/UHF/D-Star. I can walk around the shack while conversing on the radio. And of course, my wireless Samson PXD1 mic for ATV. If you are limited to space on your op position, the new Logi MX Keys Mini (less than a foot wide) wireless keyboard is a winner fitting nicely on a former Model 40 Teletype table.

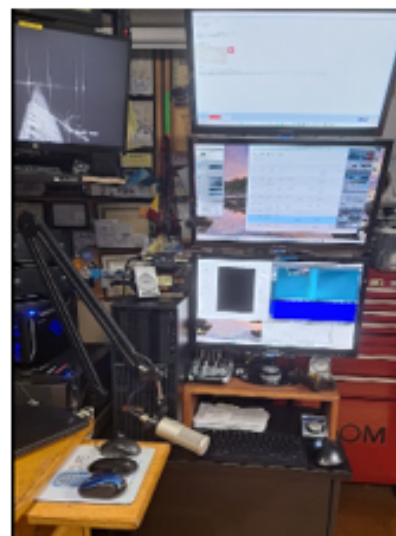
I've retired my faithful iCOM 706Mk2G. What a radio and still not really matched for size, bands, modes and performance. I used one mobile CW for several years and another one here in the shack. Over the years, I memorized their "menu" system making the radio much easier and safer to use it while driving down the road working the paddles too. Since I'm not running mobile anymore, I replaced it with another popular radio, the iCOM IC-7300. I've worked so many of them that after a while, I got the feeling that every other ham must have one (over 100k sold)! So, I joined in too and now have mine working several digital modes including FreeDV's new HF mode named RADE (RadioAutoencODe). A state-of-the-art mode, RADE uses Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence to provide improved audio quality and enhanced robustness on HF. The mode is still in beta but is gaining popularity in the US and across the globe. If you make it to Hamvention this year, I invite you to my Digital Modes forum where one of the author's will describe and demonstrate the advances in HF DV over the past year. I think you'll be impressed. Interested? Visit [freedv.org](http://freedv.org).

A new Flex Radio 8600 arrived on my porch Christmas eve. It was about time. I ordered it during Hamvention last year. Somebody once said "all good things come to those who wait." And very true for this Flex radio. I recently sold my Flex 5000 to Vince, KEØVYE and he quickly had it up and running. I have a couple more radios on sale including a Flex 6700. Please visit [slattn.net](http://slattn.net) to see them.

I also replaced my ole Dell tower with a new Lenovo WorkStation P3. It has a quick i9 processor and plenty of RAM. The system came with a fast GPU on a Nvidia 4 port (HDMI) graphics card. This prompted me to add yet-another-monitor (well, I had to use *all* the ports, didn't I?) So now I have a tree of monitors stacked 3 high above one op position. The fourth port is connected to a HiDes HV320E via an HDMI switch. Nvidia's Control Panel lets me "slide" around any graphic from one monitor to the next under mouse control. If you see me sliding a graphic on to your monitor/TV (like Flex radio's PowerSDR GUI) this is how I'm doing it.

Sound output was another issue since Flex does not have audio on their monitor's HDMI cable. I added audio using an HDMI "inserter" and a mixer to control the level. Now I can cross-band HF to 440MHz DATV displaying the Flex radio screen and any ap that may be running (like FreeDV). If you have not seen what the Flex spectrum and waterfall look like "full screen," then you may find it interesting after viewing it on your monitor/TV in real time (well, with a little latency!)

The new Lenovo Work station is running under Windows 11. Security wise 11 is a better OS (so I've read). I really don't care for it's "apple-like" start menu. It can be changed to look/function like Win 10's menu, but it may not be sticky and updates may revert it back to Win11's menu. Some functions that were once easy-to-find/use on Win 10 are not so much now. If you do much more than surf the web, I would not recommend updating until you just "have to." MS now has an option to continue using 10 but it may cost you some \$\$ to keep it updated.



## PAGE 3

Mel, KØPFX

### Update on WØATN SLATS ATV Repeater

Recently, the repeater's media player's HDMI port went dead (again) and I could not revive it so it was replaced. This week I noticed its audio level is way down now. No adjustment that I am aware of within the player. I'll have to get back to the site to check it out.

We really need to update the video in the media player. I have made few screen shots of the repeater which has undergone a number of additions/changes since Rich put the video together as part of the ID several years ago. If you have any jpg/pngs/videos of changes/additions of your shack and/or antennas, please send them to Rich so the video can be updated.

Invato's "hamclock" continues to run well on the repeater. Hamclock is now on HDMI port 2 and the media player is port 3. Software was updated on my last trip to the site. The author keeps tweaking it and adding more features.

If a repeater user's signal is freezing, dropping out or some other issue, go to the talkback FM frequency and input #11 on your touch tone mic to bring up the overlay and check the bit error rate. Entering #11 again will display just the "four corners" with the SNR and signal strength. Depending on the noise floor at the repeater site (it may change from day to day), a SNR of at least 16dB is needed for full motion and sound. Of course, the higher SNR the better. Max reading is limited by the firmware/standard to 26dB.

If you are shopping for a new 2m FM radio, look for one with a "DTMF" tone transmit feature. This feature will allow you to program memories with DTMF tones to control the repeater's HDMI ports and other functions. The ICOM ID-5100D for example, has 24 DTMF memories. Each memory slot can be programmed for a touchtone sequence such as #11 mentioned above and then transmitted "fast" with one button touch.

-/-

And don't forget.... ARRL's GOTA initiative (that's... GET ON THE AIR!) When you are in that "ATV" moment, pull your smart phone out and take a picture or a video so later we can experience it too the next time you are on the air. You don't have to wait until the SLATS net night to show it. Just fire up your station and "Show Me" I'll be watching for it.

Mel, KØPFX

January 24, 2025

## **POST 283'S HAM RADIO OPERATION PROVED 'REALLY IMPORTANT' DURING PALISADES FIRE**



### Post 283's ham radio operation proved 'really important' during Palisades Fire - The American Legion

The post's emergency communications center helped people escape the community during the wildfire. As the Palisades Fire made cellphone and other communication difficult, if not outright impossible, the emergency communications center at Post 283 came in handy.

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

[Post 283's ham radio operation proved 'really important' during Palisades Fire | The American Legion](#)

## **SCAMS OF THE MONTH**

Due to the times we are living in, we need to be more careful for our safety as well as for our family members. In an attempt to expose some of these scams and crimes that we are seeing and are going on all around us, I am trying to show how some of these scams and crimes are being done. Below are some of the things that might help everyone who is now living in this time and age.

### **I Just Got a WILD Scam Email - Many People Will Fall For This**



[I Just Got a WILD Scam Email - Many People Will Fall For This](#)



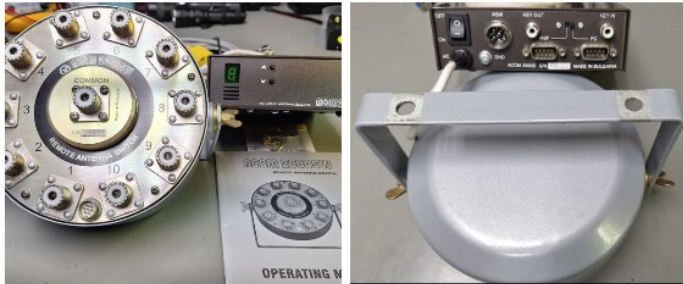
[NEVER install these programs on your PC... EVER!!!](#)

# ITEMS FOR SALE OR GIVE-AWAY

**ACOM 10 PORT HF-60Mhz HIGH POWER ANTENNA SWITCH**

I want to:  
 Sell an item  
 Name  
 Mel Whitten  
 Call Sign  
 K0PFX  
 Phone (optional)  
 +13147391108  
 Email  
[mel@melwhitten.com](mailto:mel@melwhitten.com)  
 Brief Description of item  
 Acom 10 port HF-60Mhz high power Antenna Switch  
 Details, price, condition, etc.  
 Designed to be used for remote antenna auto switching with the ACOM 2000 1.5KW amplifier. This is the "Cadillac" of antenna switches. Will handle up to 5KW with anti-hot switching self protection. Manual control is possible and compatible with other HF amps when used with a simple 4 bit BCD control code. Grounds unused antennas during operation providing excellent cross talk isolation. Switch was never used because I run a coax for each band to shack. Made to use at the base of the tower with coaxes feeding all the antennas coming down from the top of the tower with the controller inside the shack. See manual for more specs.

\$500 + UPS shipping and insurance or pick up at K0PFX QTH.



**ACOM 2000SW**  
 REMOTE ANTENNA SWITCH

Download

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1-3. Equipment Supplied and Options	3
1-4. Features	3
1-5. Safety Considerations, Explicit Definitions	4
<b>2. INSTALLATION</b>	<b>6</b>

Download

**FLEX 5000 SDR RADIO**

I want to:  
 Sell an item  
 Name  
 Mel Whitten  
 Call Sign  
 Empty  
 Phone (optional)  
 +13147391108  
 Email  
[mel@melwhitten.com](mailto:mel@melwhitten.com)  
 Brief Description of item  
 Flex 5000 SDR Radio  
 Details, price, condition, etc.  
 Flex 5000 1.6M-6m 100W (all opt) dual band and 70cm (50w), Antenna Tuner and  
 Needs equivalent 1394 Fireware PCIe card for PC.  
 Free software from KE9NS, Docs on-line. Pick up at K0PFX or will ship UPS

\$800 + shipping  
 3219 Haas Avenue  
 Bridgeton, MO  
 63044  
 US

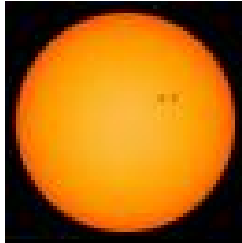
**SOLD**



Flex 5000A  
 One event (for new appearance) - (K0PFX)  
 All options 1.6M-6m (100w) and 2m and 70cm (50w)  
 HF Auto-antenna Tuner  
 PowerSDR software (2.8.0a available Free from KE9NS  
 keltho.com)  
 Docs and manuals are on-line  
 What is needed to get on the air?  
 StarTech or equivalent 1394 Fireware PCIe card  
 (I have the former KE9S 1394 card)  
 Needs pin-out for front panel 8-pin connector  
 Power Cables (not attached) from Tripp-Lite Service  
**\$800**

LINKS:

SOLAR UPDATE



The K7RA Solar Update (arrl.org)

SLATS REPEATER DVB-T WØATN

Technical Summary

**Coordinates:** 38.72126N -90.46454W, Grid Square: EM48sr [What3Words](#)  
**Elevation:** 671 ft AMSL, 90 foot Rohn tower  
**Transmitter:** HiDes HV-200Pro 426.000 MHz Vertical polarization, DVB-T 16QAM @ 4MHz Bandwidth, Video PID 641, Audio PID 642, DCI ATV BP RX/TX Filters  
**Output Power:** 426.000 MHz: (DVB-T) 25w Average  
**Receiver:** HV-110, 440.000 MHz, 4 MHz bandwidth, 16 QAM DVB-T  
**Antennas:** (2) New-Tronics Hustler Spirits, 9db 426TX and 440RX  
**Talk-Back radio:** 2 Mtr FM Diamond Antenna at 45 ft  
**Coordination:** Missouri Repeater Council (MRC) 2016  
**Sponsor:** SLATS – St. Louis Amateur Television Society (SLATS).

Popular off the shelf equipment for High Definition receiving and transmitting is available at the [HiDes Company](#) and on [eBay](#)



Ham Radio Quick Links:

Amateur Television Network

<https://www.atn-tv.com/>

ATN Repeater video streaming

<https://www.atn-tv.com/events/streaming>

ATN on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/>

[AmateurTelevisionNetwork](#)

ATN on Whereby.com

<https://whereby.com/atn1>

TAPR - Tomorrow's Ham Radio

<https://tapr.org>

DIGITAL ATV

Digital Amateur Television D-ATV

[https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Operating Modes/Digital ATV/](https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Operating%20Modes/Digital%20ATV/)

YouTube Videos

Dave Casler KEØOG - YouTube

Videos <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaBtYooQdmNzq63eID8RaLQ>

Solar Index & Propagation Made Easy

The SmokinApe

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheSmokinApe>