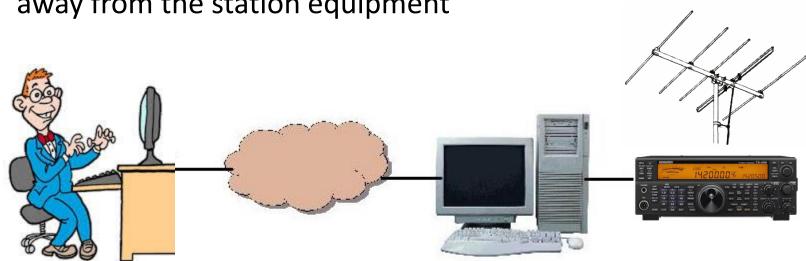
## REMOTE HAM RADIO

CARA 2016 Learning Conference

Presented by Rob VE6CCL Jack VE6CCM

## What is Remote Ham Radio?

 Controlling a transceiver or receiver from a location away from the station equipment



# Why Remote?

- Living in an antenna restricted apartment, condo
- Want to hear/ test your own station
- Use tall towers, beams and amps you don't own
- Access low bands that need long antennas
- Travelling, carry a laptop /phone instead of a radio
- High noise at home location
- Avoid causing RFI
- Contesting for AO late at night from home
- SOTA chasing can use other callsigns



### What's Available?

- Receive only online Software Defined Radios (SDR)
- Manufacturer solutions Kenwood, ICOM, Flex and Elecraft\*
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Hardware solutions from RemoteRig\*
- Paid Remote Subscriptions from RemoteHamRadio.com
- Other software solutions using Teamviewer, Ham Radio Deluxe, Echolink, W4MQ, etc
- Free Remote access and server software from Remotehams\*

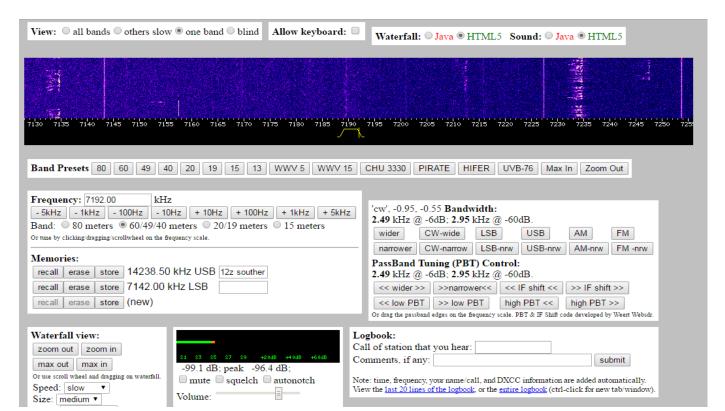
# Receive Only Online SDRs

Receive Only online SDR: websdr.org and jks.com/KiwiSDR



### Receive Only SDR – websdr.org

Locations Worldwide - select by region or band



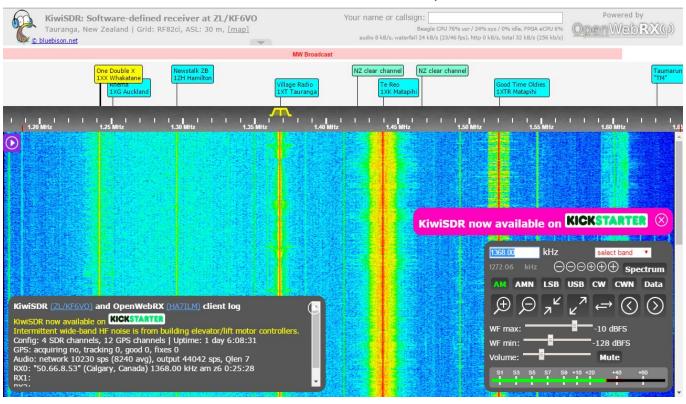
### Receive Only SDR - kiwiSDR

Funding via Kickstarter with Remotes in New Zealand, Canada and Sweden

Free RX online

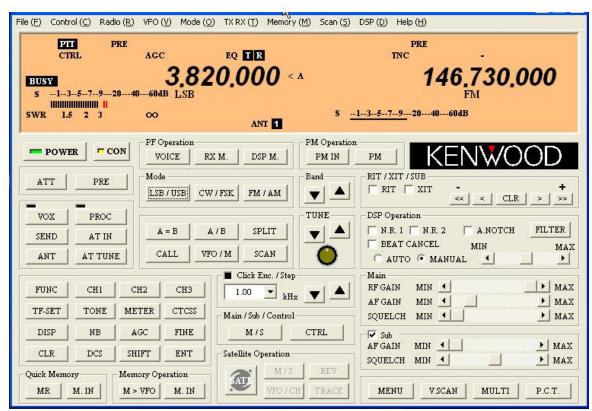
Host: Hardware Est. Cost \$199

BeagleBone Computer (~Pi) \$55



## Kenwood RX / TX Remote

- Kenwood offered one of the 1st solutions for remote base ops
- Network
   Command
   System on server
   and ACRP client
- Free with TS590



# ICOM RX / TX Remote

- Icom's top radios
   7700,7800,7850/1 offer a
   built in remote server, no PC
   needed on the radio side
- Windows client is Icom's RS-BA1 software \$99US
- Lower tier Icom radios require a PC to act as server



# Flex RX / TX Remote

Flex 6000 Series and Maestro





\$2500US

\$1300US

# Hardware RX / TX Remotes

Remote Rig - \$489US No PC required



Elecraft K3 Mini - \$699US Use with Remote Rig HW or Remotehams SW



# Paid Subscription Remotes

Home The Stations Pricing Blog Newsletter Free Trial Sign Up



Remotehamradio.com

Web Based or iOS App

\$99/\$999 per year + \$0.09 to \$0.59 per min airtime. (\$5-\$35/hr)



#### RemoteHamRadio

On the air from anywhere. Big stacks. Kilowatts of power. DX has never been closer.



World-class stations

Access multiple stations in some of the best QTHs in the world. Instantly jump across the country with the click of the mouse.

Operators have access to 30 towers, over

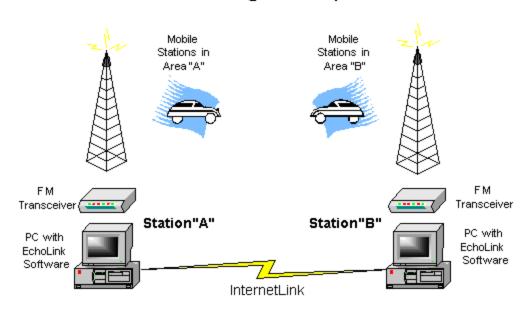


Fully portable high performance

Operate stations with just your web browser – no hardware or software is required. Or, if you prefer a real radio, use an Elecraft K3 or K3/0-Mini. You can even use 4G cell

EcholinkVHF/UHF

### Linking Example







Used by CARA's SAIT Flex 5000 remote. PC to PC can use just Teamviewer and VAC, PC to iPad needs Skype for audio.

# Ham Radio Deluxe Free/\$99US

 At CARA we have it installed on remote stations to run digital modes via it's DM780 app for PSK31, CW, RTTY, etc.



 W4MQ IRB software first used at VE6AO



### Remotehams.com

- Free! .... Other operators and clubs share their stations
- Client software for Android and Windows, headset is all that is needed
- Server software for Windows, very easy to configure for newer radios
- Accessory box available for CW key/paddles, Mic, Foot-switch, etc.





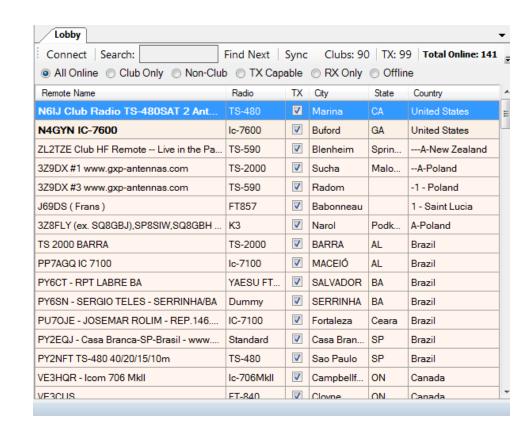
### Remote Hams

RemoteHams.com available RX/TX remotes



### Access other Remotes: RemoteHams Setup

- Visit
   http://www.remotehams.com/
- Sign up with your callsign, select a password
- 3. Download RCForb windows client
- 4. Login, select a remote from list and enjoy! (Try KJ5Y, N4GYN)
- Details later on how to access a CARA remote



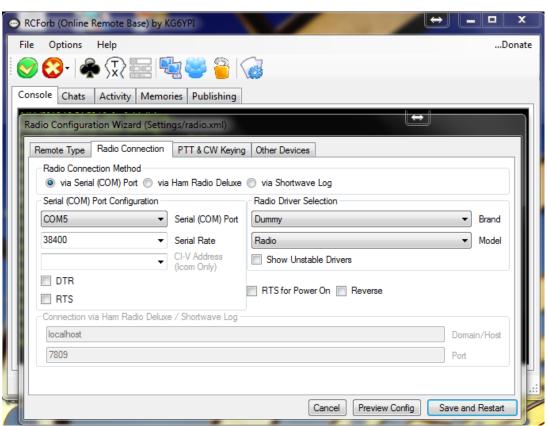
### Remote Hams Client Demo



### Remote your Home Station with RemoteHams

- Visit <u>http://www.remotehams.com/</u>
- 2. Download RCForb server
- 3. Enter your callsign, password
- 4. Configure radio cat and audio
- 5. Share public or private

With a newer radio like the Kenwood TS590 with USB CAT and USB audio it's plug and play, takes only a few minutes.



## **VE6AO** Remote History

#### 2008 VE6AO FT847 Station

The opportunity came to use the club's third station located in the basement of the CSCC's Club house as a remote

I (Rob) made it my New Years resolution to make it happen.



# W4MQ

#### **W4MQ Internet Remote Base**

Recipient of the ARRL Technical Innovation Award

An Internet accessable160m through 70cm amateur radio station Expanding amateur radio via the internet

Check out the IRB Forum for the latest information about the remotes

**CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF CURRRENT OPERATIONAL REMOTES** 

# Selected in 2008 for CARA as it could accommodate more than one user

#### W4MQ (Free) Remoting Software

#### PRIVATE / LIMITED ACCESS REMOTES

- ANY RADIO WITH A SERIAL CONTROL INTERFACE
- KENWOOD REMOTED FRONT PANELS
- KEY-BASED CW AND SWITCH PTT SUPPORTED
- PASSWORDS ONLY, NO FREQ CHECKING, ETC
- STATION DETAILS VISIBLE TO USERS
- EASY MENU-BASED CONFIGURATION
- COMMON HOST AND CLIENT SOFTWARE

#### **PUBLIC REMOTES**

- KENWOOD SPECIFIC
- GUARDED, CLOSED CONCEPT
- . LOTS OF SECURITY, FREQ CHECKING, ETC.
- STATION DETAILS HIDDEN FROM USERS
- FLEXIBLE HOST CONFIGURATION FILE
- DIFFERENT HOST AND CLIENT SOFTWARE

#### TOOLKIT FOR REMOTING ANY STATION VIA THE INTERNET



DOWNLOAD Beta v0.012

#### DOWNLOAD "WEBXCVR" CLIENT FOR "PUBLIC" STATIONS

(Version 6.002.6)



**REVIEW TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION** 

HOST/SERVER SOFTWARE FOR PUBLIC STATIONS

(Version 6.002.006)

### 2008 VE6AO Remote Setup

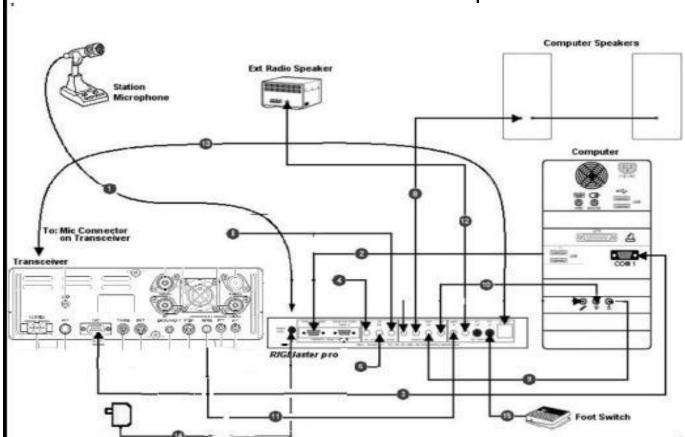
FT847

Rigblaster Pro

XP PC

**Dunstar Filters** 

40m Sloper



### Issues with W4MQ

- Designed for TS2000, interfacing with FT847 was challenging
- VE6AO needed Dunstar bandpass filter protection
- Interface dated compared to newer offerings
- Audio quality and RX/TX delay could be improved

### 2016 CARA Remotes

#### **Remote Hams Based at VE6AO**

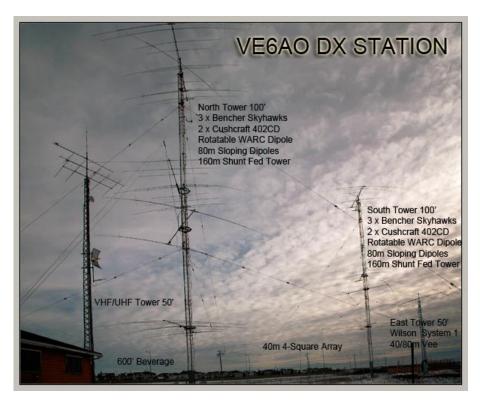
#### **North & South Stations**

FT2000, Alpha 9500 1.5KW Stacked Yagis 10,15,20 &40m WARC Dipole on 100ft Tower

#### **East Station**

FT2000, FL7000 amp 500W Triband beam at 50' 40/80m Vee, 43' Vertical 6m / VHF / UHF Station

FT2000 for simplex & repeaters 50ft Tower



## 2016 CARA Remotes

#### **SAIT Teamviewer Based**

John Ware Building Flex 5000, G5RV

Future plans:
New internet link
New Antenna(s)
Remotehams server



### Current VE6AO East Remote

#### **Remote Hams Software**

Controlling: Yaesu FT2000 Wilson System 1 Triband Yagi **FA4TX USB rotor controller** FL7000 amp with switcher Yagi, 80/40m Interved Vee, 43' Vertical Microhams microkeyer N1MM logging, DM780 digital Offers: SSB, CW and digital modes



### Remote Hams For VE6AO

- Easy to install, use and administer
- Supports our FT2000, TS 2000 radios
- Rotator control
- Security at user level
- Multi-user, VOIP chat, type chat
- CW support
- Free client and server for Windows
- Android client available
- Orb box available for PTT mic, footswitch, CW paddles
- Low latency Adobe Flash + Direct Sound
- Customizable layout, skins
- Stats over 3000 remote sessions



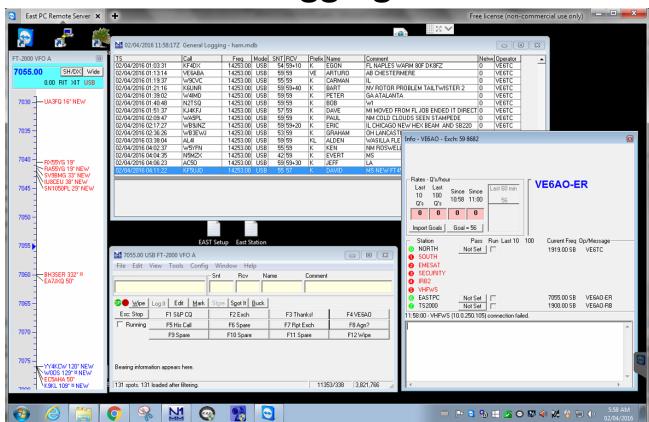
### VE6AO - Remote N1MM Logging via Teamviewer

Use AO call

Multi radio station

Track other radio usage by freq and user

Protect RX frontends



### Remote Hams VE6AO Server Setup Complexity

 Somewhat involved with a club station like VE6AO to accommodate the older FT2000 radio with serial CAT, analog audio. Needed an CAT/Audio interface box, CW interface. Allow for Dunstar filters and antenna switching, interface EA4TX rotor control box.

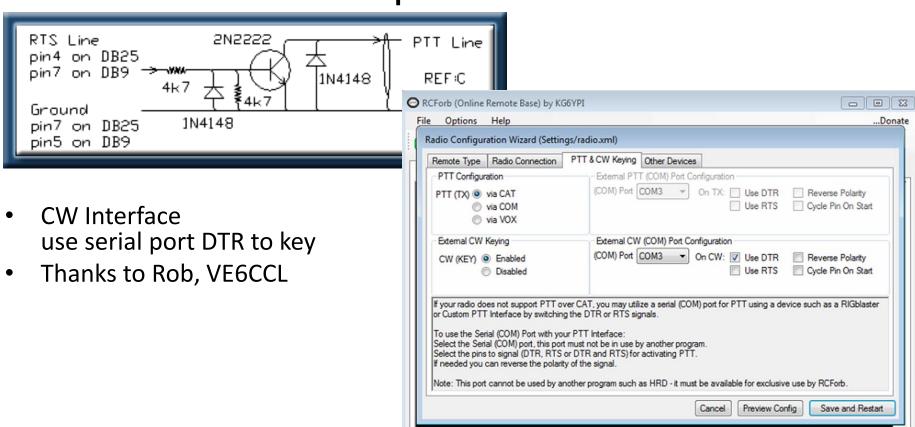
# **CAT and Audio Implementation**

microHam micro Keyer > Audio Interface , USB CAT, Virtual serial ports

 Other possibilities would be SignaLink USB for audio, RIGblaster, etc



# **CW** Implementation



# **Antenna Switching**

- Use amp with multiple antennas
- Tribander, 40/80 Vee, 43' Vertical
- FT2000
   band data out
   into FL7000 amp
   into switchbox
- Thanks to Rob,
   VE6CCL



# Rotor Implementation

Rotor Control EA4TX
 ARS-USB digital box

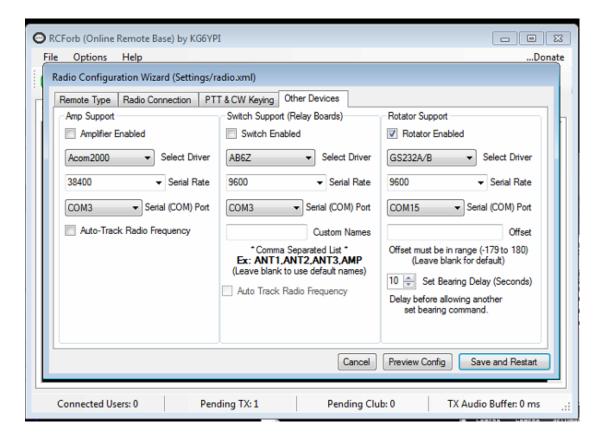
into a Ham IV analog controller





# Rotor Implementation

- RemoteHams Rotor Setup
- EA4TX box offers a USB serial port
- Thanks to Dana VA6DJH



# Industry Canada Remote Regulations

#### **RIC – 3 1.4 Advanced Qualification Privileges:**

- access all amateur bands below 30 MHz
- use maximum transmitter power of 1000 watts DC input
- build and operate transmitting equipment
- establish repeaters and club stations
- <u>remotely control fixed stations</u>, including the use of radio links

# Getting Remote Access at AO

#### Requirements:

- Member of CARA holding an Advanced License
- Hands on at club orientation of the station your interested in
- Working the radios at the club is the best way to become familiar with the equipment before using it remotely
- Join us on Saturdays mornings/afternoons or signup to operate in a HF contest.

Just contact Rob, VE6CCL to get started.

# Demo, Hands On Time

Rob – Remotehams live setup with orb box

THANKS FOR ATTENDING !!!