

NCDXC Elmering Project

Course Description for “Not So Basic Antennas”

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November 18, 2017 at 7:00 pm, Login available at 6:40 pm.

Antennas, while they could be seen as just a piece of metal, are actually somewhat complicated things. As hams, we shouldn't let this intimidate us, though. When we're trying to squeeze more performance from our HF station, the antenna is the spot where you'll get the most bang for the buck, so spending time trying to understand some of the more complicated designs and why they work (or don't in some cases) can help us do more with less. If you've ever wondered why that QRP station sounded like a kilowatt, I'll guarantee you it was the antenna.

In this class, we'll look at how we can use some of that space you have on your property to your advantage. We'll dive into what is done to optimize some of the standard designs, like Yagis, and also take a look at some more exotic designs like phased arrays. We'll explore what antenna specs mean, and what really matters when you read the manufacturer's data. The site and terrain also play an important role. We'll even look at some designs that are touted as the next best thing, but really don't work very well at all.

Come take a deeper dive into not so basic antennas, the part of your station that will define its performance more than any other. Take DXing to the next level by learning what you'll need to hear and work those not so common stations at the edge of the earth.