

The 30 Meter Band

by Ed Poccia, KC2LM

Hams have privileges on the much under used 30 meter band, 10.100 - 10.150 MHz in the HF portion of the band. This mere shtikel of a frequency range holds some unique advantages despite its meager size.

Let's be clear, this bit of HF heaven is for the CW and digital modes only. Sorry Larry. The features & advantages include:



- * 30 meters opens before forty meters. Once 20 meters starts to fade, you won't have to wait for 40 meters to heat-up before getting back into the action.
- * No contests are allowed on this band, so it remains clear on weekends when 20 & 40 are jammed with contesters.
- * DX pile-ups are smaller due to the general lack of activity on 30 meters. You'll get a better chance to work some of the plentiful DX and perhaps grab that rare one when operating with only 100 watts.
- * Digital Mode Frequencies: PSK-31 on 10.142 MHz & JT-65 on 10.139 MHz
- * Look for slow speed CW on 10.120 MHz (*Used by the straight key group, SKCC*)
- * Antennas:
 - * Yagis & multi-band HF verticals may need their optional 30 meter kit.
 - * MFJ has a Hamtenna for \$15 that does the job for me.
 - * The G5RV and G5RV jr. will tune for 30 meters with the built-in tuners on modern transceivers.
 - * I have worked and given good reports to DX hams using OCF dipoles.

You have to be mindful to not cause interference to the commercial operators using the band. Be careful at the band edges, especially above 10.150 MHz where the frequency is particularly active.

Ham radio has a history of underuse of frequency privileges, 220 MHz for instance. "Use it or lose it", as we say. But in the case of 30 meters, we may be missing out on some of the reasons we got into ham radio in the first place.