

My current station consists of a modern SO₂R set up...



... and a vintage one.



The SO2R station has a pair of K3/P3 combinations, each is teamed with an Alpha 87A amp, and the right-side K3 also can be switched to a KPA-500. The vintage station is a Globe King 500 on bottom (circa 1954) and a Collins 75A-4 (circa 1955). Above the Globe King is a completely redesigned Globe 755 VFO that has a DDS vfo driving its 6CB6 buffer. It is rock stable and allows me to work 10 meter CW with zero drift. To the right of the 75A-4 is an Eico 717 tube-type keyer. I use it and its reed relay to key the cathode keyed Globe King. Operation is PTT and I have 10K resistor on the 75A-4 muting line so during TX the receiver is monitoring the actual signal (not a sidetone). During RX, the 10K resistor is shunted by the T/R relay.

On the SO2R station, contest switching is done with Windows 7 shack computer and DX Doubler. Band changes are as easy as hitting a button on either K3. That will trigger the band decoder to update the band-pass filter and antenna switch using ShackLAN. The Eight-Pak antenna switch will prevent both K3s from connecting to the same antenna. The rotator is a Yaesu 2800 and a Green Heron control box.



There are eight feedlines from the various antennas (see photo). The 5 BA at 75 feet has three feedlines (20, 17/15 and 10/12); the EF230/240 at 82 feet has two feedlines (30 and 40); the A50-S3 for 6 meters at 87 feet has one; the Sigma 180X at 90 feet has one (80) and the Double L wire antenna tethered to the tower has one (160). So, the single-tower installation covers 160, 80, 75, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6 meters. All antennas are resonant but the 80 meter rotary dipole has an auto tuner switched in to deal with transitions up the band for RTTY and/or SSB operations. The 80 meter antenna is resonant at 3.525, so the tuner is usually bypassed when operating CW.