

SERIOUS POTA OPS (not potato chips!)

Club members Dan, W8AJF, and Ann, KA8ZEP, have been doing some recent POTA operations. In August Dan operated from North Carolina. On October 5 Ann really got into the scheme of things and operated 50 FT8 contacts and 73 USB phone contacts on 20m from Findlay State Park.



POPULAR ANTENNA MODELING SOFTWARE IS FREE...

< <https://www.rtl-sdr.com/eznec-pro-antenna-modelling-software-will-be-free-from-2022/> >

July 21, 2021 EZNEC Pro Antenna Modelling Software will be free from 2022

EZNEC is a popular antenna modelling program created by W7EL which is based on the "Numerical

Electromagnetics Code" or NEC. With a

NEC based antenna modelling program

it is possible to design antennas by

modelling their geometry and

connections, and then simulating

parameters like radiation pattern gain

and VSWR. You can also determine the

effects of height, roof angles, nearby

objects and more. Originally the pricing

was \$99 for EZNEC, \$149 for EZNEC+,

\$525 for EZNEC Pro/2 and \$675 for

EZNEC Pro/4. W7EL is retiring and from

Jan 1 2022 EZNEC Pro/2 and EZNEC+

will be made free, and EZNEC Pro/4

will be discontinued. The source code

will not be released, and no support

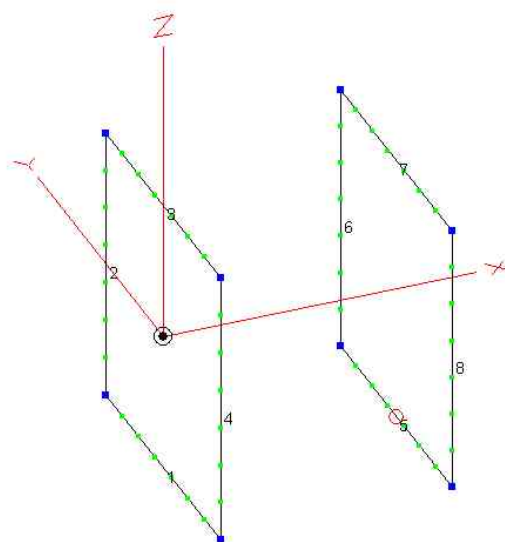
will be provided. If you're after a free

NEC based antenna modeler today, 4NEC2 is a similar program that is already free. There is

also the recently released and more modern CENOS, which is free for hobbyist

use.

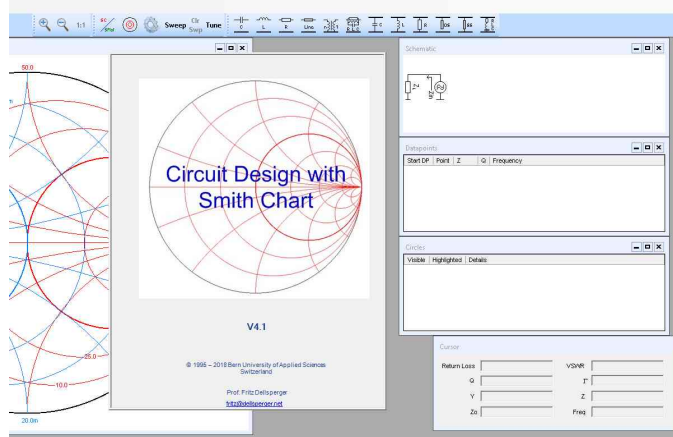
EZNEC+





FREE MODELING WITH SMITH CHARTS...

<https://www.fritz.dellsperger.net/smith.html>



Free for use with a limited number of finite elements.

His software, like most Smith Chart software, requires a bit of experimenting in order for the user to climb the learning curve.



DIGITAL QSL CARDS?...

In February 2022 I had just closed on confirming 100 mixed DX entities for DXCC on 80m, which required seeking paper QSLs with orders on OQRS. Some hams (e.g. GW3YDX) are very strict on how they will supply QSLs. There is also the issue of time delay after supplying the requisite postage via OQRS and PayPal. It takes time for paper QSLs to be written up and mailed and also the time for DX to QTH via international mail services.

Getting real QSL cards from a few operators was difficult because of the time delay after paying for the postage on oQRS. Some DX operators are slow to respond or have strict rules (GW3YDX for example.)

I suspect and assume that DX operators (outside of U.S.) who want to register with Log Book of the World have to prove their call sign is valid with extra paperwork. But they only have to do that once every time they need a new certificate. Perhaps some DX operators are just unwilling to deal with the LOTW red tape every time they need to send in an ADIF confirmation.

To be fair, it is conceivable that poor Internet connections at some DX locales make it very difficult to communicate with LOTW.

With FT8 it is easy to get accurate log entries with call signs properly spelled, whereas with CW and sometimes Phone there is a chance of logging misspelled call signs. In that case it is guaranteed that a QSL documented by any means will still not match up on LOTW and the contact will be ignored. An operator running FT8 has a computer, and so very likely is also doing email.

If you use LOTW with TQSL, you know that for submission of your logs for DX checking, you use your LOTW certificate and an ADIF file to submit a record. TQSL bundles those data items together into something (here I call it a token) that can go directly to LOTW or via email to LOTW. So my enquiring mind said "what if" the operator I just worked could email directly to me with something like that LOTW token as an attachment. Then I could attach my token to his token with some special digital "glue" and send that to LOTW myself. The DX operator would

never have to log into LOTW again but I would still get my confirmation at the speed of email instead of paper mail.

All this schema would require some changes to LOTW and TQSL, of course. But it would not be hard to change the software code to add those features.

There are some obvious side disadvantages though. Let's say I work 305 contacts in the ARRL International DX Contest. Do I want 305 emails with tokens arriving in email after the contest? That would be a problem. But more likely a large percentage of those operators would QSL directly into LOTW and only a few would require me to take action with OQRS and email me their tokens.

So do we need such a technology? Would anyone use it?

Well, I submitted a proposal to the ARRL for "digital QSL cards" via such tokens, with different words than I wrote here. The proposal was rejected.

--de AF8C

PROBLEM WITH MODULAR POWER ADAPTERS...

Just recently I was going to use a brand new modular 12V DC power adapter (aka wall wart, "device") to power up some expensive equipment. But having recently heard that not all such devices are well designed, I decided to check the device's open circuit voltage with a voltmeter. It was supposed to be 12V DC but it measured over 17V DC. Upon looking up the details for the exact model number of the device on the Internet, I learned that it consists inside of an ac down converting transformer, some diode rectifiers, one storage capacitor, and the output cable/connector. Result: with no load on it the device just charges the capacitor to the peak of the ac voltage out of the transformer secondary. Therefore, in order to get the DC voltage down to something like 12V, there has to be substantial current draw at a large percentage of the rated full current load. Well, my expensive equipment would use 500 mA and the device was rated at 1000 mA (1A). So the question boiled down to: would 500 mA reduce the voltage sufficiently. I decided to find a new source of 12V DC.

For the reader, the important part of this story is that if you want to power up something with a device like this, don't plug it into the wall socket first, and then later connect the end of the power connector to the load while it's open circuited and sitting at 17V DC. You might damage your equipment while the 17V bleeds down to 12V during the first few milliseconds of applying the power. Plug the device into the 117 Vac last after connecting to the equipment/load first.

USE POTATO BATTERY FOR ULTRA-QRP QSO...

https://www.doitpoms.ac.uk/tlplib/batteries/potato_battery.php

You can make a 2.89V battery with a potato, aluminum foil, a copper penny or flat piece of copper, and two alligator clip leads. Slice the potato so it has a flat side. Place the flat side down on the aluminum foil. Poke the copper item into the top of the potato. Use the clip leads to connect the battery to the radio power wires. This works due to phosphoric acid in the battery. You will get more current if the copper is wider than a penny.

THE DX SCENE...

(Courtesy of the NG3K website
and KB8NW's OPDX Bulletins)

Call, Start Date,, End Date, DXCC Entity
VQ9SC,2022 Sep16,2022 Oct16,Chagos
SV5,2022 Sep18,2022 Oct09,Dodecanese
3C3CA,2022 Sep19,2022 Oct19,Equatorial Guinea
VP9,2022 Sep25,2022 Oct06,Bermuda
VP9,2022 Sep26,2022 Oct06,Bermuda
FO,2022 Sep27,2022 Oct05,French Polynesia
V5,2022 Sep28,2022 Oct11,Namibia
AH2,2022 Sep30,2022 Oct04,Guam
TX7G,2022 Oct01,2022 Oct15,Marquesas
S79,2022 Oct02,2022 Oct15,Seychelles
8Q7TD,2022 Oct02,2022 Oct17,Maldives
ZA,2022 Oct03,2022 Oct18,Albania
AH0,2022 Oct06,2022 Oct13,Mariana Is
D60AE,2022 Oct05,2022 Oct17,Comoros
AH0,2022 Oct06,2022 Oct13,Mariana Is
5R8FG,2022 Oct08,2022 Oct17,Madagascar
5R8,2022 Oct11,2022 Oct22,Madagascar
VP2,2022 Oct13,2022 Oct20,Montserrat
TY0RU,2022 Oct14,2022 Oct26,Benin
7Q6M,2022 Oct19,2022 Nov29,Malawi
3A,2022 Oct20,2022 Oct23,Monaco
V3E,2022 Oct19,2022 Oct23,Belize
PJ5,2022 Oct25,2022 Nov04,Saba & Sint Eustatius
VK9CM,2022 Oct26,2022 Nov03,Cocos Keeling
HR9,2022 Oct27,2022 Oct31,Honduras
P29RO,2022 Oct25,2022 Nov10,Papua New Guinea
J28MD,2022 Oct29,2022 Nov07,Djibouti
TX5XG,2022 Nov01,2022 Nov09,Austral Is
7P8CW,2022 Nov02,2022 Nov07,Lesotho
TX5XG,2022 Oct02,2022 Nov09,Austral Is
T88WA,2022 Nov02,2022 Nov14,Palau
A35GC,2022 Nov02,2022 Nov20,Tonga
TL8AA,2022 Nov12,2022 Nov26,Central African Rep
P40DA,2022 Oct14,2022 Nov27,Aruba
T88PB,2022 Nov23,2022 Dec04,Palau
HR5,2022 Nov23,2022 Nov30,Honduras
TO9W,2022 Nov30,2022 Dec09,St Martin
S21DX,2022 Dec10,2022 Dec16,Bangladesh
FT8/c,2022 Dec15,2022 Dec31,Crozet
VP2MDX,2023 Jan02,2023 Jan31,Montserrat
TN8K,2023 Jan07,2023 Jan21,Congo
T8,2023 Jan13,2023 Jan20,Palau
3Y0J,2023 Jan23,2023 Feb28,Bouvet I
J8,2023 Feb15,2023 Feb21,St Vincent
HK0,2023 Feb28,2023 Mar05,San Andres & Providencia
HC8M,2023 Mar01,2023 Mar11,Galapagos
PJ7AA,2023 Mar04,2023 Apr01,St Martin
CY0S,2023 Mar20,2023 Mar29,Sable I

2022 ELECTED CLUB OFFICERS

President
Glenn Williams **AF8C**
(440) 934-5566
Vice President
Karl Beckman **WA8NVW**
(440) 234-4839
Secretary
Open
Treasurer
Ann Wadsworth **KA8ZEP**
Fifth Board Member
Stephen Kinford **N8WB**
(216) 702-8384

COMMITTEES

FIELD EVENTS COMMITTEE - OPEN

Safety Officer
OPEN

License Trustee
N8WB

ARRL VE'S
AF8C, N8CX, N8WB, W8MET, KC8FOS

ARTICLES SUBMITTED
--

NET MANAGER
W8WLI

CONTESTS, SATELLITES
N8WS and N8WB

PROPERTY CUSTODIAN
N8WS

8TH AREA BUREAU LETTER MGR. **AF8C (8V)**

PROGRAMS
KC8FOS and AF8C

EDITOR, WEBMASTER
AF8C

ORIGINAL LABELS DATABASE
N8CX

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MEETINGS: WEST PARK RADIOPS ARC plans to resume meeting each month at Cuyahoga Community College West Campus in the Public Safety Training Center, 11000 Pleasant Valley Dr. at 7:30 PM sharp.

**But our on-site meetings have been suspended during Covid-19 protocols.
Therefore we meet on Zoom on the second Friday, 7:30 p.m.**

Dues \$15/yr. We welcome anyone interested in amateur radio to our meetings. We operate Monday and Friday night nets on 147.36+ (107.2 Hz) MHz at 8:00 p.m. Eastern.

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W8VM

