

Report From The

8th Annual 3905 Century Club Mobile Shoot-Out

The Eighth Annual 3905 Century Club Mobile Antenna Shoot Out was held on 30 JULY, 2009 at the Vista Antique and Steam Engine Museum in Vista, Ca. Quite a few new faces joined us this year and we had a good turn out with 14 contestants. The mixture of recorded scores were spread over quite a range, but the winning scores were reasonably close together. Many of the participants are beginning to understand how we test our antennas and what is required of their systems in order to place in the top slots.

The Results are posted in the order of highest score first. Type of antenna, type of vehicle, and mount location are also included in the chart for comparison of “systems”. Please be sure to read the comments which follow the published results as there has been considerable controversy surrounding the shootout this year.

Test Run #	CALL	Antenna Type	Vehicle Type	Mount Position	Signal in mV	Notes
3	KG6YVD	Tarheel 100 AD	Chevy Avalanche	Rear Bumper Left and High	119	Impressive installation
4	WQ1H	Predator 3"	Mini Van	Center Rear Hitch	116	Coil high above roofline on large van
8	WT0A	DK-3 w/16" Top Hat	Chevy Silverado	Bed Rail Behind Cab – Left	113	
2	NJ9T	Predator 2" w/14" Top Hat	Ford Escape	Rear Bumper – Left	112	Coil above roofline
9	N6TYF	Hi-Q 2.5/80	Pontiac Vibe	Mid-Roof Mag Mount	80	Nice high mount
11	KD7POJ	Hi-Q 5-160 w/EB Top Hat	Chevy Silverado	Bed Rail Behind Cab – Right	60	Coil close to cab
6	W5IL	Hamstick	Nissan Rogue SUV	Mid-Roof Mag Mount	56	Rental Car with high mag mount
13	WD6V	Hi-Q 5-160 w/EB Top Hat	Toyota SUV	Rear Bumper – Left	52	
7	N7JY	DK-3	Chevy Suburban	Rear Bumper – Left	49	Lossy duct tape??
12	AD7DB	Hamstick	Toyota Pickup	Rear Bumper – Left	40	Antenna mounted close alongside truck cap
1	K7FE	Hi-Q 5-160	Ford Windstar	Rear Bumper – Left	36/37	Found loose grounds (loosened by body shop) after testing
10	WB6BFG	Hi-Q 5-160	Dodge Ram 2500	Rear Bumper – Right	30	Coil mounted low below a lotta steel
14	W6HIQ	Hi-Q 5-160 w/EB Top Hat	Mercedes Benz SUV	Rear Bumper – Left	14	Coil and two egg-beater cap hats mounted very close to car body
5	K0WJ	Scorpion SA-680E w/4" Top Hat	Chevy Silverado	Mid Pickup Bed	NV	Lon voluntarily disqualified himself due to oversized cap hat

Gloom, Despair, and Agony on me.....That old song rings so true this year. I had expected to attend and conduct the shootout this year, but three last minute service calls at work prevented that.

So, I shipped the test gear to Loren with only days to spare. He put the shootout in the hands of two very shootout saavy individuals – K0WJ, Lon and NJ9T, Prez Pete. However, in all the confusion, I neglected to post the usual and customary set of procedures and rules which would normally preclude our annual event. This later proved to be disasterous for one contestant (Lon, K0WJ) when he failed to remember our cap hat size rule that would normally be enforced. When this was pointed out after the contest, Lon (being the honest person I have always know him to be) voluntarily disqualified himself from competition. This also meant forfeiting his first place finish, the “Top Gun” cap, and the first prize of a new Hi-Q Antenna (which he has since shipped to the second place finisher who was declared the winner upon Lon’s withdrawal).

So what have we learned Most of the controversy clouding this year’s event had to do with what I feel is lack of technical knowledge of how a mobile antenna system really works. Our little group of “antenna kickers” has been enjoying visiting with one another each year at the shootouts and having fun in the sun. We have also been learning from one another about which antenna set-ups work and which ones work better. Many have observed firsthand that even a marginal antenna (when mounted properly) can outperform a superior antenna (that has been mounted poorly).

One of the major complainants.... this year insisted that the test equipment could not have been working properly. I offered to let him pick up and try the gear for himself (and even Loren offered to deliver it), but he declined. After the gear was returned to me, I took it out in the field and tested it to insure it was working properly – it was. If anyone is interested, I have pix and results from testing three different brands of antennas from one vehicle and one mount location.

Now the hard part.....I sincerely regret the grief my inattention has caused the club, our club president, and especially my friend Lon. And, I am ashamed of and personally embarrassed by the behavior of one of the shootout participants that I specifically encouraged and invited to attend. For these reasons, I wish to offer an apology to all for this inattention on my part and desire to remove myself as “Shootout Master”. Hopefully some “new blood” will keep the spirit and excitement of our shootouts going for many years to come.

Thank you all...

73,

Tom - AA1NZ