Episode 541 Eric Hofer KJ4YZI Transcript

Eric 4Z1UG
Kj4yzi, this is Eric 4Z1UG. Are you there, Eric?

Eric KJ4YZI
I am here, Eric.

Eric 4Z1UG
Hello, Nice to meet you. Eric. Welcime to the QSO Today podcast, can we start at the very beginning of your ham radio story? Who Elmered you and how did you get started?

Eric KJ4YZI
Great question. Actually, I started in CB radio when I was about 9 years old. My dad always had a CV in the vehicle and I used to sneak out to his vehicle to jump on the floorboard of his Datsun and talk to the truck drivers. At nine years old, when everybody else was playing, I was playing radio. My 10th birthday present, I asked for Cobra 29 Ltd CB radio and my dad brought one home. From about 10 years old to about 18 19, I met a few people on CB radio locally. Patrick was my Elmer Ki for L U Y and he said, why don't you come over, I want to show you some other radios.

Eric KJ4YZI
And specifically There was an ICOM V8002 meter 65 watt radio sitting there on the desk and he pushed the button, the PTT and it keyed up the local repeater and it talked and it said W4P H J Repeater. And I said holy cow, it talks. And he says, yes, this is ham radio, this is a repeater. We started, I started listening to him talk to a couple people in town and I was hooked after that. That was my very first being a cb. That was my very first exposure to ham radio was Patrick.

Eric 4Z1UG
Now the QTH now is in Florida. What's, what's the city in Florida?

Eric KJ4YZI
Vero Beach. There's a. Vero beach is the bigger city. Sebastian is a little suburb of Vero Beach. So Vero beach is where I live.

Eric 4Z1UG
And that's where you grew up as well?

Eric KJ4YZI
Yeah, since 1992. I was actually born in Fort Lauderdale and I lived there until I was about 7 or 8 and my parents moved up to Vero Beach. I've been up here ever since like 1992.

Eric 4Z1UG
So your radio stomping ground is central Florida, I guess, right on the coast?

Eric KJ4YZI
Yes.

Eric 4Z1UG
Yeah, yeah.

Eric KJ4YZI
That's where I've done most of my radio up here.

Eric 4Z1UG
Okay, and you started with CB radio. It's my understanding from your YouTube channel. We'll talk about it a little bit, that you also continue to operate 11 meters CB radio?

Eric KJ4YZI
Yes, I do on there quite often. And there's a lot of people on the sideband portion having conversations. It propagates much like 10 meters. So I could talk to a lot of the guys that are on ham radio. That also choose to operate 11 meters. And we could talk all over the country or all over the world if the band is open.

Eric 4Z1UG
Yeah, well, that's interesting. There used to be, at least when I was growing up, that when you graduated from CB radio to amateur radio, you never look back. What is the reason that you continue to operate CB radio now that you have the exclusive ham radio license?

Eric KJ4YZI
I mean, there's, you know, it's still radio. It's, it's right there between 10 and 12 meters. And they're still actively making CB radios. They're still actively making antennas. You could also build your own antennas. You can, you know, do a lot of stuff in there. It's just a section, I think carved out where a lot of people get in today's day. They get caught up that if you're on 11 meters, that's not real radio because you got to be on 10 or 12 with a ham license to be on radio. And I, I think that's not the case. Also. There's a lot of people that I've met on CB radio that I showed them ham radio and they decided to take the plunge and they decided to say, wow, I can go more than just 11 meters. But that was their gateway into it.

Eric KJ4YZI
And I just find that there's some people that will never leave 11 meters. There's some people that have been using CB radio for 25 years. They have no interest in getting a ham license. So there's another group of people I could talk to there. And you know, it's kind of like the same thing with propagation antennas and better radios, lesser radios, stuff like that. It all kind of fits together.

Eric 4Z1UG
I think now your gateway into amateur radio was the exposure to 2 meters. Was that actually the very first operating mode that you used was say VHF and UHF fm and how did that work for you?

Eric KJ4YZI
Yeah, so that was my very first radio was a Radio Shack HTX202 2 meter handheld. But see, if back then, when I wasn't even licensed yet, I, I would understand how HF works compared to 11 meters. But the repeater thing was brand new for me. So that was something we didn't have in 11 meters. I didn't know you had repeaters that were connected with phone patches, connected with echo link that had, you know, news bulletin. So that was a whole new thing for me. Seeing something like 10 meters, I can understand even without ever touching ham radio what was going on. But with repeaters, that was all new to me.

Eric 4Z1UG
And how Was the experience, the user experience for you back then?

Eric KJ4YZI
It was. It was really good. There was a lot of the local guys that did the typical meetings and the nets and stuff, and I found it welcoming. You know, when you threw a call out and you said that you were a first time, you know, when I first got my license, waiting eagerly for it to show up in the database, that was the first thing I did. And of course, there was a lot of people that were there to greet me and tell me, hey, you know, welcome to the hobby, and start asking questions. And I was very terrified. And I was nervous at the time because I didn't know what they were going to ask me. But in the most part, it was.

Eric KJ4YZI
It was very rewarding to get on the first thing to get on that repeater and make your calls, you know, make a call with your new call sign. That was definitely exciting for me.

Eric 4Z1UG

It seems to me you have a YouTube channel called Ham Radio Concepts, and this is actually, I think, how I discovered you was through your YouTube channel. You've got over 150,000 subscribers as of today, and with more than a thousand videos, I'm. My hat's off to you in terms of your production value and the amount of product that you've made. What was the reason for starting that? Did you see that there was something missing in your, you know, being brought up in amateur radio that you wanted some kind of hole that you wanted to fulfill?

Eric KJ4YZI
Well, that's a good question, because when I started my YouTube back then, I had a different outlook on why I did it compared today, and I'll tell you why. But in the beginning, it was because I didn't know a lot on HAM radio when it was talking about, you know, and I didn't have money either. I was. I was strapped. We were. Me and my wife just got together and there was no going out and buying things. I had to try to build things. I would ask questions on repeaters like, how. How can I make this diamond antenna do that much better so I can get more range? And I would start asking questions and maybe I can add wire or I could trim this or tune or do something.

Eric KJ4YZI
And the questions I would get online and on the repeater was, you know, you're going about it the wrong way. Just stop trying to reinvent the wheel. Just go spend more money. And I didn't. I didn't really like that answer because there was a group at one point and some forums online that I would ask these questions, and that's what I would get. And I. And back then there was no real YouTube channels that would show everything. So I had the mindset that I would start, you know, a YouTube channel for anybody to ask, you know, questions and maybe I would learn from them and they can learn and not get yelled at or you know, torn apart on some forum where you accidentally ask the wrong question.

Eric KJ4YZI
And a lot of people have been doing Ham for 30 years would come right back to you and kind of discourage you. So I wanted to make that YouTube channel where people like me could get going and ask questions and maybe I could show them stuff. That's how originally I started it.

Eric 4Z1UG
So that your original channel was you were you. You presented the project that you were doing and you asked for help. And then people would come back on the, in the comments section or did you proceed with the project and see, you know, who would. I mean, I saw for example, a project where you're building a 1296 antenna. Yagi, for example, a 23 centimeter Yagi. And it seemed to me that at a certain point you gave up because the antenna wouldn't tune. And I'm sure that. But it seems like you had made multiple episodes on this antenna. Is. Is that kind of how you were doing it or you were actually asking for help or you were using it just to show progress?

Eric KJ4YZI
Well now, like in the beginning, okay, the very first video I did was a Baofeng UV5R. That was the hottest thing back in 2012, and I kind of understood it. But I made a video first on that to just show. I used to originally just show what it can do, what you can do to get people excited. Back then I didn't realize the value of having an audience. Whereas, you know, fast forward 12, 13 years later, as you mentioned, I could. The 2 meter cubicle quad I just built. I did have a struggle with that one through some ideas out in comments and realized that I have a whole audience of people that are more expert than I am that could throw in the comments and give me information. And that's how I just finished this antenna.

Eric KJ4YZI
I didn't realize that in the beginning I was just trying to show things that I would figure out a new radio or this antenna works better mounted here. I would just show what it was and it kind of looked like product reviews. Or in the beginning, the first five, six, seven, eight years, it just looked like I was showing products, but that's kind of what I was doing. I didn't know really what would come out of it. Now I Understand that, you know, if I had a question or if I had a, a project that the viewership, the people are watching are definitely very valuable and important. And that's what happened on that 23 centimeter Yagi.

Eric KJ4YZI
There's a couple things that I thought I knew I was doing by the time I put that away to the pause, because I'm coming back to that antenna now. I know where some of the things I missed and why it didn't work. But I learned and I don't ever want to be an expert. If I'm an expert at something, I'm going to get bored. So being the

fact that I had a problem tuning that, I put it aside, I got all this stuff, I'm going to come back to it. I know now where my frame of mind is, where I can get it working and that'll be more rewarding.

Eric 4Z1UG
Do you try everything? I mean, ham radio is obvious. I've said on the podcast for years that ham radio is like a three ring circus, you know, with its traditional elements in the main tent, but it has a midway that has a thousand tents. Are you attempting on your own with the channel, whatever, to taste from all of those tents along the way?

Eric KJ4YZI
Well, see, there's a. So I recently changed formats, right? There's. How do I put this? I like looking online and seeing other things that people are doing in the hobby. And I try to see. I don't look for it on purpose, but when I find something that I don't know, a certain digital mode or a certain method or mode. For instance, the eme, Earth, Moon, Earth. When I started looking at that, everybody made it sound like it was impossible for the average person. And that's when I decided I would jump into it, but kind of show it in more of an achievable way from my backyard, not showing it like it's some sort of life endeavor to do it.

Eric KJ4YZI
And I learned a lot about the EME and you know, shared some videos on my progress and I'm no expert at it, but I know a lot more about it than when I started there. I don't really look for things out on the videos in the world or modes that I don't know. And, and look how I can conquer it. I look how I could get into it myself and then share my experience in a different way so people can understand it. You know, I. It could be you can go very deep into certain modes and that scares a lot of people away. So the fact that I started with a very mediocre antenna doing Earth moon, Earth and showed people, hey look, I did this.

Eric KJ4YZI
That immediately sparked thousands of people that want to do it because they saw you didn't need four acres of property and $10,000 to do it. But you know, if I find something I think is interesting that I can think in my head will appeal to a lot of the people that are doing the same old in ham radio. That's what I try to look at and try to make a project out of it.

Eric 4Z1UG
So for the listeners, because we're an audio podcast, although I'm going to put the links to your ham Radio Concepts YouTube channel in the show notes. What is the EME Rig? What did you end up doing and were you successful making contacts?

Eric KJ4YZI
Eme, yeah, I'm successful so far on 70cm and 1.2 GHz, only a couple stations because they have bigger stations on their side in Russia. And as she says, they got giant arrays so they could pick up little guys like me. But for EME, I'm using Yagis, specifically a third 36 element Yagi on 23cm or a 20 element Yagi on UHF 70cm and I'm using an old Yaesu FT 736 from the 80s. I would prefer a 9700. I've had one before I had to sell it. But this radio here does. You know, back in the day this YA was a their major radio for moon bounce, satellite and everything. So that right there shows people that you don't need the latest and greatest.

Eric KJ4YZI
If I could do it with the 1987 radio, which I, I kind of like, this radio has a lot of history behind it and a lot of features, but typically 50 to 100 watts in the backyard with a Yagi. And I'm doing it all manual Armstrong method. I don't want any tracking or any kind of automatic elevation and azimuth because I find that takes the fun away. It takes the fun out of it for me. I want to manually look down that boom and follow the moon every so many minutes where I have to change the heading, the degrees.

Eric KJ4YZI
I think that finds, I find it more fun doing it by myself than to rely on something sitting on a tower or on top of my house that's doing it automatically and just watching it on the computer, I want to go out and do it myself. And that's what made it fun.

Eric 4Z1UG
Did you do the contact using CW or single sideband, or did you do it using the digital. Digital modes, yeah.

Eric KJ4YZI
So digital modes are very popular on there because they, you know, it's like a FT8, but it's called Q and that is

using, you know, decoding way below the noise floor with 45 second transmit, 15 second receive. So it takes about three minutes to make a QSO. But the digital mode, you know, for sideband, everybody always asks me. It's a question I always get. Can you hear your own echo off the moon? Eric, I want to hear your voice come off the moon. I want to hear a CW reflect off the moon and come back for my station. That'll never happen unless I go, you know, with a giant amplifier with a thousand watts and you know, something like 20, 25, 30 decibels of gain.

Eric KJ4YZI
Other than that, I can work the bigger stations on the other side who may have 4, 8, 16, all the way up to 96 yaggies stacked together on an array. That's why, that's why I can work them, but I can't hear my own voice or do any kind of sideband or cw.

Eric 4Z1UG
Well, I think your achievement was connecting the digital modes to the old rig because usually those old rigs didn't have the stability for working the digital modes. So I think that my hat's off to you for being able to adapt that radio to, you know, to using with the digital modes.

Eric KJ4YZI
Well, that and see, that's another thing how I've been in the last year or two with the hobby. I want to work for the contact, I want to work for the mode. I've gotten really head first into weak signal modes and EME being one of them. It wouldn't be fun to me if I had a thousand watts and the latest radio and I could just point and click on who I want to talk to. I want to accidentally make that contact in the backyard. So using a radio that doesn't have a, a GPS clock input in the back like a 9700, it may be drifty a tiny bit, but somehow I got it working and that really puts the icing on the cake for me.

Eric 4Z1UG
That's pretty amazing. Your, your YouTube channel seems to attract a lot of new users and maybe even prospective hams. Are you, would you say that you're, that you may be marketing differently towards new prospective hams and new users than maybe some of the other channels that you might review on YouTube and do they need to be handled differently now than they did before?

Eric KJ4YZI
Yes, there's, so there's a method to my YouTube lately. I am. That's why I, I changed a format and went towards a lot of basic stuff that a lot of people know because there's a lot of people that don't know there's something going on in the hobby in 2025, 2026, actually earlier than that. But the last few years, it seems to me that a lot of people have the. It's a lot easier to get your license and it's a lot easier to get that ticket and that radio. And they get out there on the air and they have no idea what to do. Now this is primarily because they want to catch up to the people that have been doing this so long they feel they're late to the party.

Eric KJ4YZI
They feel that unless they have all that stuff that they're not going to enjoy the hobby as what they see on YouTube. And so lately I am focused on trying to show basics in amateur radio. I got a lot of stuff coming, but I haven't got that time yet. I want to show basic stuff working 2 meter single sideband. That's something that has went away years ago because everybody thought 2 meters or 144 to 148 MHz means handheld radio with a repeater. And immediately they're told, you're a general. Now, you don't ever need to do that again. There's a lot of bandwidth that encompasses those frequencies that people are automatically attaching to repeaters and doing basic things. And that's not the case. You could do moon bounce, satellite, weak signal mode, CW, AM, Sideman, all kinds of stuff on 2 meters.

Eric KJ4YZI
And I think, you know, when I see these things happening in the hobby, I want to kind of address that. I've done all that stuff. But why are we forgetting that there's this and this in the hobby? And it seems it's channeled. Get your license, get a radio, buy it brand new, get on 20 meters and start calling CQ. That's what Ham radio is. And I feel that is the last of ham radio. I mean, there's so much you can do so much in this hobby except 20 meters on HF. But that seems where everybody's going. So I'm trying to find other things that are not the typical norm. And I'm trying to show those things on ham radio with some of the very basic. To some people.

Eric KJ4YZI
They did that 30 years ago, but the things that people are learning now don't even mention those things.

Eric 4Z1UG

So I saw that you're actually making contacts on 2 meter single sideband, and you're horizontally polarized and you're getting some amazing paths, thousands of miles, it looks like, in your pursuit of it. Do you think one of the advantages perhaps of using 2 meters, if you can find these single sideband rigs still, and maybe you can talk a little bit about sources of supply for used rigs like this, but that it's exciting because the antenna is small. It probably could be used in most places like hoas, where you could stick it up at night and no one notices that you're using it and take it down. What are those advantages that you found with say, 2 meter single side bin?

Eric KJ4YZI
Well, I mean, you know, some people ask this question too. They say, well, I could do more than that on HF. Why would I go to 2 meter sideband? Well, to me it's because you can. And it's a challenge for me. I feel that you have to watch propagation. You have to wait patiently. You have to, you have to chase it when it happens. It's almost like 6 meters today right now, as I look on the computer screen, there is a massive opening again from the north to the south of the United States. And I, I feel that some of the, yeah, it kind of, it's 2 meters is, you know, can, it's in the VHF portion. It can operate like six. When you get a sporadic E or ducting or tropospheric, you could, you know, it'll open up just like 6 meters will.

Eric KJ4YZI
It'll be dead. It'll be dead. And all of a sudden 6 meters will open from east coast to the west coast and then it'll drop. 2 Meters will do the same thing. But these openings have been happening for years. And I've always been out there chasing these openings and calling CQ and trying. There was nobody ever there. And I think lately with all these videos that I've been trying to push up, there's a lot of people right now that are making contacts from New York to Texas and from Missouri to Florida on 2 meters. And they're talking on the microphone or they're using fta. But they all come back to the videos and comment, Wow, I saw your post. That was the first time I've ever made a contact on 2 meters for 1500 miles. I'm totally hooked.

Eric KJ4YZI
And every day the list is getting bigger. It looks like more and more people are finding out about this, but it's nothing new. It's just that nobody ever told them, nobody ever showed them that you can do this. So it's exciting to them. Too, being that whether they want to talk into a repeater that's 900 miles away, or they want to operate terrestrial on single sideband and do FT8 or whisper or voice, it's happening and it's been happening and they just haven't noticed it. So a lot of people now are spreading in their clubs and they're saying, hey, you know, for field day, why do we never have anybody on 2 meter sideband? Why do we never have anybody at our events that it's on 144 MHz? Why are we always going to 20 meters? Look what we can do on 2 meters.

Eric KJ4YZI
And that was my idea behind that was to try to get more action on there because it just sits there dormant and it takes somebody to energize and get people moving to determine you could do this.

Eric 4Z1UG
Well, I think my experience, you know, in over 50 years of ham radio was that the guys that were doing single sideband or CW on 2 meters uhf, they were specialists, right? This is what they did. There were specialists in it and there weren't very many of those guys in your ham club. So that's why you never had a ham station in those things. And I think one of the advantages that you have is with your channel is that you're able to kind of get all the specialists together in one place to be able to either coordinate communications or just gives these specialists a chance to have a chance to air.

Eric 4Z1UG
I know pre Internet, if you were a specialist, you knew about the other guys from the VHF and above column in qst, you know, because they were, you were working them in contests or something like that. But, you know, there was really. No, I guess there were, there are national VHF and VHF clubs where these guys hung out. But is that something that you're aware of in terms of these clubs? Are you a, are you an advocate of clubs when it comes to these specializations?

Eric KJ4YZI
Well, I mean, I know of the Florida Weak Signal Society and a couple other ones I've heard of. But here's the, here's the thing. You said specialists, right? I know what you're, where you're coming from, but it kind of went the other way. Now this time in our hand life, everybody has got. Not everybody. A lot of people that are doing this have the equipment and they have the antennas. They have the 9700, they have the 705. And I always ask them and they said, I. Nobody ever told me, I thought the 9700 was to use on DSTAR or a repeater. I had no idea you can do this. So once everybody has the radios now, let's make them special, let's show them what they could do with it.

Eric KJ4YZI
Because as you're saying back then, years ago it was probably, you know, before my time, I guess with when I missed that in the beginning of my ham career. But it was probably like, oh, that guy has 2 meter sideband and like you said, he's a specialist. He's got antenna rays and stuff. Now everybody has the radios. Nobody knows you can use the mode. That is what has happened. And when I made, when I mentioned in that video, you know, why do you have a 9,700? There was thousands of people that watched it, hundreds of emails and contacts and comments that said yes, I have that radio. Nobody ever told me I could do this with it.

Eric KJ4YZI
So that's why I'm trying to, you know, if it wouldn't be as effective as if I said everybody go out and buy a two thousand dollar radio. They already got the radio. A lot of people have the devices. They just didn't know you can do it.

Eric 4Z1UG
Oh, how interesting. And you do find that a lot of the hams that are entering now are pretty open to buying the Japanese and Chinese radios. I mean it is because of the discussion on all of the YouTube channels about these radios. Or do you find that, are you finding that there might even be folks that are interested in the older radios like the one that you're operating? There were some great single sideband cw, vhf, UHF radios in the past, multiband that were, you know, great for this stuff. But nowadays they actually could be almost as expensive as buying a new radio.

Eric KJ4YZI
Right? So what I feel my opinion and what the YouTube land is that a lot of people have gotten the mentality that they just got their license and they see these videos with these radios promoted and that's what they need. And a lot of them don't hesitate, they will go right out and buy it. But when I ask a lot of people, when I talk on digital mode or I talk on chats or whatever and I'll ask them, they always say I'm under the impression from what I see on YouTube, it's all this flashy new gear. Nobody ever said to go out and find a radio like a 706 mark 2G that can be had for 350 bucks used.

Eric KJ4YZI
They are, I think YouTube is shaping the way people feel about the hobby, how they have to operate it and people get A kick out of me using radios that you don't see. I mean, no, you know, nobody's doing review videos on an FT736. That's from the 80s. I was like six years old when it came out. But if they knew about that, they would have bought a radio like that. But I think YouTube and it goes, it's not, it's just the way YouTube, I've seen this for years. It's the way YouTube algorithm and YouTube says you have to do this if you want an audience. And I choose not to do that, but do this to get an audience. You have to show the latest and greatest. Because nobody in ham radio wants to see old stuff anymore.

Eric KJ4YZI
They see a new device on the radio, a new device on the video, and that's what they feel they have to buy. And that's totally not the case.

Eric 4Z1UG
Do you think your new hams would be open to say, building, say kits or rigs like that are very, I mean, do you concentrate any videos on, you know, you've got a budget of $200. How can you get in and be active, you know, on a limited budget? And would you advocate kits and used gear, things like that, if you could find it?

Eric KJ4YZI
Use gear? Yeah, I'm about to actually make a video about that. I wanted to prove the Internet and see what's out there just to show because, you know, some people just have to see that. They have to see. I could talk about. But when you see it in the video, they'll say, wow, I am missing out. There's a lot of things I can build, there's a lot of things I can buy that are older, that will do just the same. But as far as kits, like my first kit I'm going to do is going to be a VHF amplifier. I, I've already ordered a kit. It is a very, it's a basic design, I guess, but I've never put one together. But it's a push pull amplifier and the parts are relatively cheap. But I've never done a kit before.

Eric KJ4YZI
I'm going to start with this. I, I don't want to show videos of people, you know, walking people through a kit because I'm not an expert at it. There's things that I'm going to run into and that makes for a boring series. When I start doing it, okay, I'm stuck. I don't know where I'm at here, what do I do? And yes, there's a lot of people

that would help on YouTube and we could have a kit session, maybe live stream and people can throw their comments in the people that are building it. But I kind of leave the kit things for the people that have done kits their whole life. You know, I'm not going to start and say that I'm a kit builder just because I got one working. If I did this my whole life I would do that.

Eric KJ4YZI
But I am going to try that 2 meter VHF amplifier kit and I think it's affordable enough for people to try. And a lot of people had mentioned when you start that I'm going to be following because I want to do that instead of buying everything, I want to take part in that part of the hobby. And so do I. I missed all that. I'm going backwards away from scopes and going into tube radios because I missed all that stuff and I want to know about it. I have three tube radios that I could probably fix. Need to recap. And this and that power supply modification. But I got to play with that and I feel that I'm craving that because I've missed that portion of the hobby. 30, 40 Years ago, you built all your stuff.

Eric KJ4YZI
Now you just buy it off a shelf and you don't know what's inside it. You plug it in, voices come out of the speaker on top. I want to know why the voices come out of the speaker. I'm sucked into that right now.

Eric 4Z1UG
Well, 34, I hate to say this, 34 years ago, I think we were buying ICOM and Kenwood and Yaesu even then. There were some American manufacturers at the time also, you know, Swans and Swan and Collins and Atlas and stuff. But I think the 70s was the, kind of, the introduction of, we called them the rice boxes at the time. So if you were a snob, then, you know, you weren't using the Japanese stuff yet. I think that's where ham radio went in order to have a lot of functionality in a smaller box that you could fit in your car. Do you see as a, I'm thinking you know, Eric, as we're talking that you're a, an influencer to new hams, to maybe people getting back in the hobby who've been out for a long time but you know, need some guidance.

Eric 4Z1UG
Do you see that the institutions like the ARRL with their QST magazine and things like this, do you think they're still relevant to this group of hams? Do you, do you get the magazine yourself and do you think that it has enough stuff in it to interest a person who's getting into ham radio right at first.

Eric KJ4YZI
Okay. So I look at this a different way. I did make a video about this couple months ago, I think last month. You know, I have never had any kind of coordination or correspondence with a double R L in my entire HAM career. Career. But we know I'm calling my HAM hobby of that many years. I don't know enough about it. So I made a video about asking and I asked people in the comments what, how do you feel about this? You know, and the comments are all over the place. I don't necessarily have any, I don't have anything against ARRL or any other organization. I just don't know enough about it.

Eric KJ4YZI
And what I see in 2026 or last few years is people go to YouTube to find this information to they can get everything they need from YouTube without going to a club meeting, without going to, you know, arrl. Now I have heard that, you know, a lot of the things need to change in the arrl. I mean think about this from what I know about it and from what I've seen, okay, I don't. If you, if you put somebody out there that's an influencer, I'm not saying just me, anybody, and you put arrl right next to each other and you tell the brand new person that's never seen ham radio needs to know they're going to get on YouTube instead. Because I don't think, you know, what they see visually front facing from the ARRL is something to attract somebody into the hobby.

Eric KJ4YZI
Do you understand what I'm trying to get?

Eric 4Z1UG
Sure.

Eric KJ4YZI
I, I don't know, you know, someone that's been an ARRL Life member for 40 years can tell me I'm wrong and that may be the case, but from my standpoint, I don't think that a lot of these new people are influenced at all into this hobby by that website or that company, that organization. That organization. If that makes sense.

Eric 4Z1UG

Right, it makes sense. I mean, I guess I should probably look and see if the A actually has a YouTube channel. I'd be surprised if they didn't on the one hand. On the other. Yeah. And they should have all kinds of, it seems to me, videos that maybe mirror the public face of their magazine. I've been a member of the ARRL for years. My reasoning, and it's the same reason I belong to the Israel Amateur Radio Club in Israel, is that it's for spectrum defense, meaning that we have this wonderful international park of spectrum from DC to Blue Light that needs defending, you know, in the halls of Congress and, you know, internationally so that we don't lose it to other services that would like to have it.

Eric 4Z1UG
So for me, the, the biggest reason to belong to the ARRL is to support its spectrum defense efforts. I still get the magazine. It's interesting, but I grew up reading magazines. Are you a magazine reader? Maybe that's a. A generational thing where I'd get five, six magazines a month of various kinds to support my fix. But that was pre YouTube and pre Internet.

Eric KJ4YZI
Well, I've been known to prove through a magazine, probably not an ARRL magazine, but. But let me ask you this. At the ham fest specifically, I've been to, you know, Dayton, Orlando, a couple other ones. There's always an ARRL booth there. And I can't see new hams or people excited about the hobby going to that booth for anything that's encouraging to get in the radio. I mean, I've talked to a couple guys, but they're always here. We are. And yes, I agree. Defending, defending the spectrum and being the governing body from ham radio. I get that. But everybody is pouring to the other booths where people are showing them things and they're able to discuss and learn things about the newest technology.

Eric KJ4YZI
They're not crowded around the ARRL booth because I feel from what I see at the hand fest I've been to, it's really not that engaging or exciting over there. It seems that it's a political wall when you cross that border right there that, you know, they can give you insights on what's good and bad in the hobby and what they do. But I'm just looking. I keep steering it this way. This is how society is. This is what I see funneling into the hobby. And that's why there's a rift between the people that have been in the hobby 50 years and the people that are getting licensed today. There's a huge rift there.

Eric KJ4YZI
They don't mash in the radio world because you got somebody that's been doing this for so many years that knows everybody at ARRL and goes to that booth all the time. Then you got the people that just got started, and they have nothing to do at that hobby to interest them. They go other places and then on the air, it's the same way you got the people. I've been doing this 40 years and the people that just started doing this, and nine times out of ten, they get a bad taste because it's supposed to be this way because I've done it 40 years. And the ARRL says this, but the new guy just wants to get into the hobby and see all the new stuff and meet people.

Eric KJ4YZI
I don't think what's happening at the ARRL booth at a ham fest is enough to engage that person that walks by. That's my opinion.

Eric 4Z1UG
The new person who. Who doesn't have a arrl. Acquaintances or friends, you know. Yeah, no, I get it. Okay.

Eric KJ4YZI
Yeah.

Eric 4Z1UG
So. So this is interesting to me when you. I mean, you've. You're going to Hamcation and you're going to. To the Dayton Ham bench and. And you're doing floor coverage, which is interesting for a guy like me, for example, who isn't traveling to the States these days or because of an illness. I'm not really traveling at all. It was great to watch the YouTubers covering the Dayton hamvention because I, you know, I've been there enough to know where they are in the building and to see the latest stuff. I think it's great. But what's the pulse that you pick up when you go to these shows in terms of who's there, where the hobby is going to? Are you hopeful in this pulse that. That it's going in the right direction?

Eric KJ4YZI
Well, you know, I have stopped going to a lot of the ham fests. I mainly go to just Orlando this year. This year I started, you know, I stopped doing the floor coverage, as you say. And when I would go, you know, a lot of the

YouTube guys, you know, they are all doing the same videos on the same product, the same announcement from ICOM or Kenwood. And I got bored with that. I don't do that anymore. I find myself making a video out in the used section. I call it the junk section.

Eric 4Z1UG
Right.

Eric KJ4YZI
I go inside the. Inside the buildings and outside. And I thought nobody liked that. So I did a couple years of that and people and I stopped and people said, we love that because nobody does that. Everybody is showing the same video on the same Kenwood that's coming out at the same time. They're all crowded together around it. And I'm outside looking at older CB radios and older ham radios of things that I may be able to repair or things that you don't find much because they weren't really a big seller. And, you know, now people are looking for them. So that's what I do now at a ham fest. And I. I never was anybody at a hand fest. I was just a guy showing the World what was there.

Eric KJ4YZI
So there's nothing spectacular, me going with a phone and looking, but at least I show people what else you can see at the hand fest. Because I think it's getting too redundant when we know ICOM's coming out with a new video, a new radio, and it's going to be at one of the ham fest. We know all the big YouTubers are going to be there. I just want to show other people what you don't see at the end fest. The stuff on the table that the guy built 30 years ago that he's selling, that works, that he only wants a couple hundred bucks for. But those are things I feel that would be more fun than just following the herd, you know what I mean?

Eric 4Z1UG
By the way, the flea market is actually my favorite part of the show as well, you know, to see what people are throwing out that I might, you know, bring home. Or it's something that I'm actually looking for and actually find it for a good price. What kind of feedback are you getting from first of all, the people that are watching your videos in the flea market, Is there an opportunity to help those people in the flea market, you know, maybe move some of their junk, you know, with this stuff?

Eric KJ4YZI
Yeah, I wouldn't say I have enough, that much influence to help people move that stuff. I could tell you though, don't buy it on Friday or Saturday. And if you miss it on Saturday and it's not their Sunday, it's gone. But if it's still there Sunday, they will take a lesser price to try to get it out of there. I feel that if you can rephrase the question for me, let me do this. Can I go back a minute and just explain why or where I changed how I came in the, you know, what I did five years ago on YouTube compared to what I'm doing today, sure, that would make a little. That would fit into this part of the conversation. You know, years ago, it was almost like a drug.

Eric KJ4YZI
It was a YouTube thing to be at that ham fest and be the first one to show it. Because YouTube would tell you know, you want to have, you want to do this and show the newest and this, and that's the only way you're going to succeed. Right. But for a long time, if the radio came out, yes, I did do that. I was never paid to say anything. A product pusher. If the new radio came out, I remember the 7300 to this day as like a half a million views when that 7300 came out, I got that loaned to me from Giga Parts and I had that video out before ICOM did. And that was a big no because Icon makes the first video. But that was what I was chasing was I got it.

Eric KJ4YZI
You know, that's all went through my head was you got to be the first to show this video. You got to be the one to show everything about this product. So nobody else wants to see those other videos. And that has kind of changed into now where I want to show what people are not showing. That's, that's, you know. So when you ask the question, what was your question now about the flea market section going to YouTube?

Eric 4Z1UG
The question more about this is less about the flea market and really about the conventions themselves in that you're going to see a mixture of say newcomers to the hobby and a lot of old timers. And when you look at the YouTube videos, you know where they're going around the hamvention or the hamcation. Obviously it looks like the majority of attendees are elderly men. I mean your boots on the ground, do you see that? You know that there's a balance or there's a bunch of new people coming in. Are we not advertising these conventions well enough to younger new hams to actually, you know, get them there? What's, what's your sense of that?

Eric KJ4YZI
Okay, well, and not to be mean to anybody that may be listening or whatever, but yes it is definitely an elderly based event. Okay. There is a mixed bag. There's a lot of newcomers, there's a lot of people that are walking around that just got their license. But, and a lot of them recognize me from YouTube and a lot of them recognize the other YouTubers. But I, I feel that when I talk to them they're like, hey, I just got my ticket last week. I've seen you years at this hand fest. Now I'm finally here. But they automatically think they have to go and just go in there and shop. That's the only way you're going to enjoy the hobby. The.

Eric KJ4YZI
I see a lot of the people I see every year and I've seen them every year at the tables and they have their own little clique and I don't think they're very welcoming because they'll set up a booth about their 75 meter net that they do every week. And that's the old timers club and they call themselves, you know, different clubs but they're very not inviting. And the new people are not running over to those tables. They're just not. They're going to what they see on YouTube. Everybody's going to be crowding around the icon booth because of a new device. That's where all the new people, I see the older people that have been in the hobby for years are not interested in that.

Eric KJ4YZI
They're interested in finding the other people that are their age that are selling their gear that they built, that they can vouch for at their section of the ham fest, if that kind of makes sense. I don't see mingling. I don't see a lot of the newcomers that are 20 years old that show up and he's like, man, it's so exciting to meet you. You know, where do I go to? What's. Where do I buy my next radio? Where am I going? And I always point them to. Have you checked at the flea market section? No, no, I, I've been over here where all the YouTubers are. There's no, there's no intermingling. I'm sorry to say it, but there's not.

Eric KJ4YZI
And that's the first impression they will get at a ham fest and it could be a bad taste in their mouth where they never want to go again. I'm not sure why people that have been in the hobby so long have taken on that mentality. Me, I love first time contacts. When somebody says they're brand new in the hobby, I stop what I'm doing to take that one. I don't care how big the pile up is. If they're at ham fest and they say, hey, thank you. I just got my license. I just found you on YouTube. I've only been licensed three days. I know they're nervous. I can see it. And I try to show them things in the field flea market and walk them through it and help them out, you know, as best I can.

Eric KJ4YZI
But I don't see that happening with the people that have been going there for 40 years. They stay in their own section. That's just what I've seen.

Eric 4Z1UG
You did a video where you were talking about, I think it was a recent video where you're talking about making contacts on the local repeaters and that people are hesitant to have conversations on ham radio. And you even made, I think he even said that if you want to have a conversation, you'll go to 11 meters. Talk about that a little bit. Do you see that? Not just on the local repeater, say in the Florida area, but are you in talk groups, you know, on DMR and all These other modes and we have the ability, you know, to talk on all star nodes, dmr, talk groups, etc around the world. Do you find that people are. That hams now just don't have conversations?

Eric KJ4YZI
Yeah, I mean the repeaters, you know that on that video the comments are still coming in to this day. There's got to be like 2500 comments in that video where they are very unhappy that all these repeaters exist and nobody's talking on them. And when you ask them why, they're always getting told that this is not, excuse me, this is not for talking, this is for emergencies or we don't want to hear all this. Switch to simplex. Well, they're 90 miles apart. A repeater covers good. They can't talk on Simplex. But nobody's using the repeater anyways. We're just talking about some things and somebody has to jump in and say stop tying up the repeater. But then if you don't talk, the repeater sits there dead for days and nobody says anything. I'm not sure why that's happening.

Eric KJ4YZI
The comments suggest that people, you know, they spent their, you know, years ago, 20 years ago, those groups of people would hog the repeaters. That was their little area, their little group, you know, and slowly a lot of them got out of the hobby, passed away, got older and that's opened up to where new people can jump into that repeater group. But there's still repeater groups out there of the people have been there 20 something years and

they just want to keep it to themselves. I'm not sure why, I'm not sure what the, you know, I've done it too. I've tested that theory up in Tallahassee or Gainesville and jumped into a repeater group. They're in there all the time and the first thing I get is, oh, here comes the big YouTube star.

Eric KJ4YZI
And I'm not a YouTube star, but I never even said YouTube. They know me from YouTube and they immediately don't want me on there because I'm going to generate some conversation and they don't like that. I don't know why that happens, I don't know. But it's happening across the world. And you can look at the comments. People are very discouraged about repeaters. They are dead. They're sitting there. Nobody's on them, nobody's on it. If you get on them, they kick you off. I don't know why. There's a, there's some good ones out there. People have told me there's good ones in different portions of the United States.

Eric KJ4YZI
But the fact of the matter is, I used to go 15 years ago from Fort Lauderdale to Jacksonville driving, and man, it was a hoot because every county there was a different repeater where there was a bunch of people, hey, Eric, you're passing through. Awesome. Now you just call and there's nobody there.

Eric 4Z1UG
It causes me to pause. I. I've been involved in repeaters and stuff for almost all my, you know, 50 plus years in ham radio. And I got interested in All Star. I brought All Star to Israel some 10, 12 years ago. And so the repeaters are connected and sadly, nobody uses them, nobody talks on them. And you build all this infrastructure, you link them together, you secure mountaintop sites, you make trips to the hill to make sure that they're working and nobody uses them. And so as I'm looking through my workshop right now, I've got few All Star projects for other people or, you know, even for me. And I'm thinking, you know, it's not worth it.

Eric 4Z1UG
It's kind of like I should put all the stuff up for sale because it doesn't matter if I connect to a node, you know, in the United States that's supposed to be busy, there's nobody there. And then if you talk to one of the big nation, regional or nationwide ones, as you said, people want to do signal reports. Although signal reports is like CQ to me. You know, I'll have a conversation with somebody if they ask for a signal report. Because I know that what they're really trying to do is just have a human contact, as you say. Sadly, it makes you wonder if WhatsApp works and all these other signal telegram, if all those things work. That's where the hams are. They're not on the radio.

Eric KJ4YZI
You're absolutely right. And the one thing that's coming out that has taken the digital world by storm was this shark RF M1KE device. And it drives me nuts because, you know, they haven't stepped into all of those things and added that to their collection. They were told, you don't need a ham radio. Just memorize these questions, get a ham license and buy this device. There's no antenna. There's all you need is WI fi and that's the way it's going. And I tell them, you know, they asked me, why you get so mad, Eric? I'm not mad. But, you know, it meant something to me to try different radios and to test the limits and the fringes of Repeaters and to see when repeaters, you know, wouldn't work because of distance or propagation ever.

Eric KJ4YZI
And, and all I get from these people is, well, I have this now. I'm going to fill up my logbook, I'm going to shut the thing off and pet the dollar when I'm done. I don't need all those antennas. I don't need to buy a radio. I have this device right here and it goes to WI Fi and I could do dmr, dstar Fusion. And they don't care about repeaters, they don't care about HF wires or antennas. They just want to talk to people and they get on. And it's the same thing when they talk on this device. How am I sounding? Do I sound good? Okay, you're making it in seven, three. So there's not even discussion on that. It's just the digital device that's going through WI Fi and the other one is, oh, I got this app on my phone.

Eric KJ4YZI
So I'm on my phone, I don't even need a radio. And you know, Eric, you should sell all your radios and buy this. No, that's not ham radio to me. That to me is a way to supplement. You know, you're at an airport, you don't want to look like a nut with a radio in your hand. You can use that thing while you make your travel cross country, leave your radio stuff at home, supplement a little portion of the hobby so you can access it away from home. But people are turning that into that is what ham radio is. And that doesn't work on repeaters, obviously. So there's more reason not to get a radio that transmits RF because you could do much more on an Internet enabled device that's this big.

Eric 4Z1UG
I think I saw your video about that as well. So now that we've kind of gotten this far at this point, what's your favorite operating mode and the way of doing it?

Eric KJ4YZI
Yeah, my favorite. Well, my favorite operating mode or practice would be weak signal. I anything that revolves around weak Signal. For instance, FT8 people are using FT8 globally on every band. I want to use FTA on my 7300 set to 0% output power with just the driver of the radio and see what I can do or if I take it out in the field we've used, you know, I'll use a bicycle rim on a loop tuner and use very minimal power to see what I can do with that. Any. So that's right now in 2 meters, that's emu moon bounce.

Eric KJ4YZI
It may be 50 or 100 watts, but to round trip 500000 miles to the moon and back to barely get into Russia on a guy's array that he can't see or hear my signal, but the computer said that was my signal, you know, and I got his back off the surface of the moon. That's what's fun to me. Weak signal. I'm kind of bored on hf. I've done so much HF in my mobile and at home, I'm bored with it. I mean if I make a DX contact tomorrow, it doesn't even get logged. That's because I've burned myself out on hf. So my favorite mode encompasses at the, the idea of weak signal. That could be on six meters, it could be on two meters. You know, I, I want to work two meter transatlantic to Europe on terrestrial.

Eric KJ4YZI
You know, I want to do that with enough power and Yagis and a good band opening. I want to do stuff like that. And satellites are fun. So call it space communications and weak signal mode. That's where I've settled down in the hobby as my favorite.

Eric 4Z1UG
And if you're looking at the hobby going forward, do you have a lot of hope that we'll continue to gain more hams? It seems to me that at least with your channel you are attracting potential new hams and you're maybe teaching them the right things as a way not to be disappointed with the performance of the first radios or whatever, but to keep in there and keep trying. Are you optimistic for the future of ham radio?

Eric KJ4YZI
Well, I think the future of ham radio, I think ham radio needs some help, honestly. And that's why I'm trying to do this. I think that ham radio is going to fade away slowly if it continues the way it is. I feel that Internet enabled devices replacing traditional gear is a bad idea. It's great that we have the opportunity for these newer things. Doesn't mean they must be implemented. I think I've talked about this in a video. Clubs are dying. Breed clubs are going away. They are going away and people will tell you they've been to clubs, they're trying to make their own club. It's just not happening. I think if you lose the clubs, you stick with the keeping it convenient and easy for the ham and not getting new blood into the hobby, those three things, it's gonna die away. It is.

Eric KJ4YZI
I, there's a lot of people that do comment on my videos lately telling me that I'm offering nothing to the hobby because I'm just trying to make a contact. There's a lot of people that think I'm trying to make videos, to make contacts because I can't without a video. And so that I can quit my job being this celebrity that I'm not. No, that's not the case. I have a full time career in land mobile radio with microwave and repeaters and public safety. All I'm trying to do is generate buzz to get people interested and that may be as Easy as a 2 meter contact from another state or it could be, you know, building your own antenna or something.

Eric KJ4YZI
But where I'm going with that is I can't make clubs, I can't fix the club situation in the country, I can't fix the situation of repeaters. All I can do is raise awareness. And, and so I tell people when you get kicked off a repeater because someone says they don't want to hear it and it's been dead for days, talk anyways. I mean, that's the only thing we can do is start a conversation. If you're, if you're doing nothing, breaking the rules you're talking about, whatever you're identifying, you're keeping, it breaks in between, there's no reason you should be kicked off repeater. Start talking, just talk. And ignore the people that are bad. We have to get them out of the hobby, the bad blood out of the hobby.

Eric KJ4YZI
The people that comment and tell me that I'm not using real radio because it's dstar. Dstar is real radio. I think using it on an app, on the phone is not. But just because I'm using a digital repeater from a vehicle or a handheld

and I'm talking through a reflector to somebody else, and we're on rf, both sides. There's a lot of people that say that's not radio. Well, that is radio. It's just a digital form. So I can't fix the problems, but I could try to raise awareness. And the way I do that sometimes in videos aggravates people. But that's the way it's going to listen. That's the only way people are going to listen.

Eric KJ4YZI
YouTube has structured people to understand we're going to show you what's relevant to you because what you've asked for and we're not going to show the videos that don't relate to you because you haven't clicked on any of them. And that's what YouTube's doing. So the fact that I'm showing things that may beneficial. YouTube doesn't like that. It's about the views and showing this new thing that's being promoted and not showing. What I'm just trying to do is raise awareness about certain topics, you know, So I, I kind of come off on a different attitude in YouTube videos and people think, wow, he's getting mean. No, I'm not getting mean all of a sudden.

Eric KJ4YZI
I'm just trying to get your viewership so you can show others and spread the word so we can get new clubs generated, we can get new things happening in the hobby to keep the hobby alive, not to just do what YouTube says and to let the club die. You can't do that. You know, that's where I think ham radio is going in the next how many years stays the way it is? That's just my opinion.

Eric 4Z1UG
Well, I appreciate your sharing it. You know, it's a funny thing because I've just. You've just triggered something by talking a little bit about your profession. And I want to talk about your profession for a second. As a kid, the most exciting thing for me was land mobile radio. Now, this is the 70s, you know, the early 70s through the 80s, where land mobile gear was coming out of, you know, surplus FM gear, trunk mount radios. I mean, this is probably well before you were born, but the whole idea of service monitors, test equipment, all this stuff was of tremendous interest to me. Now, you just mentioned that you're a land mobile radio tech, so I want you to talk a little bit about that. But this is triggered by.

Eric 4Z1UG
I saw a picture on your YouTube channel of a comm120r, which is a service monitor. I said, oh, he's got a service monitor with the YAESU radio on it. So I apologize for not asking that question, you know, early into the interview, but talk a little bit about what you do professionally and then we'll put it all together with a nice bow.

Eric KJ4YZI
All right? So, yeah, you know, and again, I, for the organization I work for, you know, it's totally opposite of ham radio. If this sensitivity on this radio is not right, it goes out for repair. Whereas in ham radio, it doesn't matter if it's 0.21 or 0.22 microvolts, you won't notice the difference. But I work on, I do have a com120B. I have an IFR 1200 super S, I think. I don't use that one much. And what I do basically is public safety microwave 6 GHz up to 22 GHz point to point.

Eric KJ4YZI
Also 47 MHz VHF low band, VHF high band up in the 150s, 160s, UHF above the handband, 453, 458 and fiber optic and you know, voter systems where you know, somebody can key up in one district and you know, it's like a multicast, like a tide, like repeaters that would be tied together and one person at the north end of the district could talk to a person on the south end that could be mobile, they could be base, there's repeater towers and they're all connected through the state through a bridge using microwave or fiber.

Eric KJ4YZI
So you know, in a day, monthly portion, I'm on the supervisor side now, but I still go out and do some tests and you know, hooking up service monitors and injecting signals into the receiver, measuring the signal coming out of the receiver, measuring the tone, leaving the receiver or the transmitter to the main voter site and back and doing circuit tests so I could see, you know, test 12 decibels and other procedures. I did show that once or twice on a video, but I choose not to do that because again there's so many other experts out there that are way above me. You say one wrong thing about a measurement that I'm doing on a radio, it's going to come after you like a pack of wolves. So I, I understand it, I do it daily.

Eric KJ4YZI
But for me there's no reason to ever make a video testing A7300OR, or YASI radio. The Japanese engineers know what they're doing and there's people that do this in laboratory environments. That's not my niche. But I

do enjoy poking around with some of my gear once in a while with you know, some of my test gear from work and looking and seeing wow. Manufacturer says it's you know, specked out to be here and they're right in that range, you know, just to know that I've done that. But yeah, land mobile radio. I get to play with radios all the time at work and I get five ham radios in my truck, four plus one 11 meter radio. So I get to the antennas all over my truck and I get to do whatever I want when I'm driving, talking on radio.

Eric KJ4YZI
So it's not even like I'm going to work. I'm playing radio on the way to work. I'm playing radio at work and playing radio on the way home from work. So that's what keeps it fun for me.

Eric 4Z1UG
Well, what I wanted to do was I wanted to establish your creds, your credentials for actually knowing what you're talking about technically, while you're encouraging new hams to maybe find a more success in the hobby than they're going to find. Perhaps, you know, taking a VE session and then getting a free radio and then never coming back that you actually have the technical suds in order to support what you're saying. If you were, if that was where you're going in the channel. That was certainly the direction that I wanted to go for years in my early years in my ham radio life was to do exactly what you're doing.

Eric 4Z1UG
There are times now, looking back on my career, I'm now retired, but there's a time that I wish I had just done that I had stayed in the land mobile van and spent my career, you know, working on radios and not bringing the troubles of the office home every night. That would have been probably a successful career for me. Anyway, Eric, I want to thank you so much for joining me on the QSO Today podcast. I appreciate what you're doing. I realize that, you know, the challenge is out there, but I think that your approach and your generation could be new lifeblood for ham radio.

Eric 4Z1UG
And I guess we all have to grow a thicker skin so we're not as sensoitive that when we take a little criticism on the air, that will just blow it off and find that, find our community, find the people that want to talk to us.

Eric KJ4YZI
Yep, that's it. That's one video coming. It's going to be titled Be Aggressive because there's just too many people that are listening to some things that are not good for the hobby and they follow along with it. They're afraid to say anything or to try anything new. And got to do that. Gotta, gotta break some of this apart in the ham radio hobby and find a way to integrate with those people that have been on 75 meters for 50 years and the guy that decides to use his device, which doesn't have antenna, somehow we got to get this collaborated together so that you're not having these person, these people yelling at them, or these people afraid to talk because they exist on the radio. That's, that's what we need to get over.

Eric 4Z1UG
What's so interesting is I actually stood before I got my ham license, I actually listened to 75 meters in the evening, you know, on a Heathcote Mohican shortwave radio receiver. I'd lie in bed and listen to these guys pontificating on 75 meters. I think those guys are still there, you know, even after all of these years. They never die, or their children and their grandchildren have taken over their places. But it sounds the same to me. I'll use an SDR receiver, you know, in the United States and listen to it from here. And it's funny that, you know, those conversations are still the same. They still have the same tenor and tone. It's like, you know, they Never die. Anyway. Eric, thank you so much for joining me on QSO today.

Eric KJ4YZI
Thanks for having me. 7 3