2m ARDF behaviour. + Simulation with Radio Mobile.

Kurt, ON4CHE February 2008

Section SNW



Agenda.

- Reflections during 2m direction finding.
- "Radio Mobile" propagation simulation SW.
- Study cases:
 - Reflections.
 - Signal strength on hills.
- Tips and tricks in hilly area.
- Example:
 - Region 3 ARDF Championships '99, Nonsan, Korea.
 - Trainings area, Belgian ARDF-team going to Korea, 2008.
- Summary

Reflections during 2m direction finding.

- Two types of reflection:
 - Local Reflections:
 - The edge of tree lines or the perimeters of wooded areas.
 - Man made objects like houses, cars, palisades, ...
 - Waterfronts.
 - Dunes.
 - Geographical reflections:
 - Dunes.
 - Hills.
 - Mountain borders.





Reflections during 2m direction finding.

- Can be recognized:
 - Wide signal angle.
 - If the signals coming from more than one direction.
 - 4 el. Yagi is better than 3el. or HB9CV as the dip between 2 reflection is measurable.
 - If the direction moves fast during running.
 - Front/back ratio is small.
 - The modulation is not clear due interference.

"Radio Mobile".

- It's a tool used to predict the performance of a radio system.
- It uses digital terrain elevation data for automatic extraction of path profile between an emitter and a receiver.
- The elevation data is downloadable from the internet.
- Radio propagation model: ITS Irregular Terrain Model (Longley-Rice).
- Antenna heights Range .5 to 2999m.
- Frequency Range: 20MHz 20 GHz.
- Freeware by VE2DBE (http://www.ve2dbe.com/download/download.html)

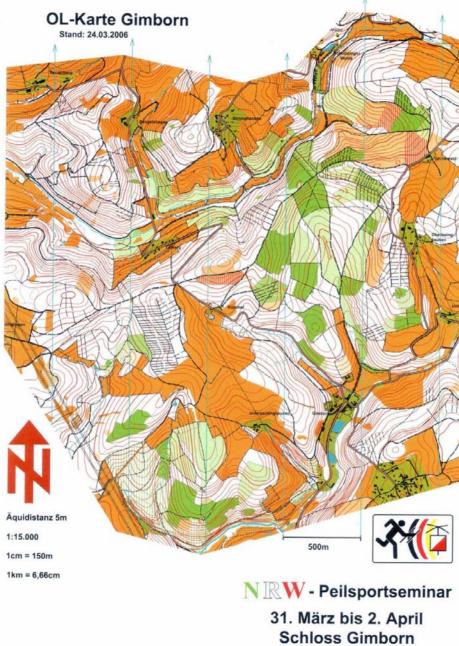
Study case: Reflections Simulation.







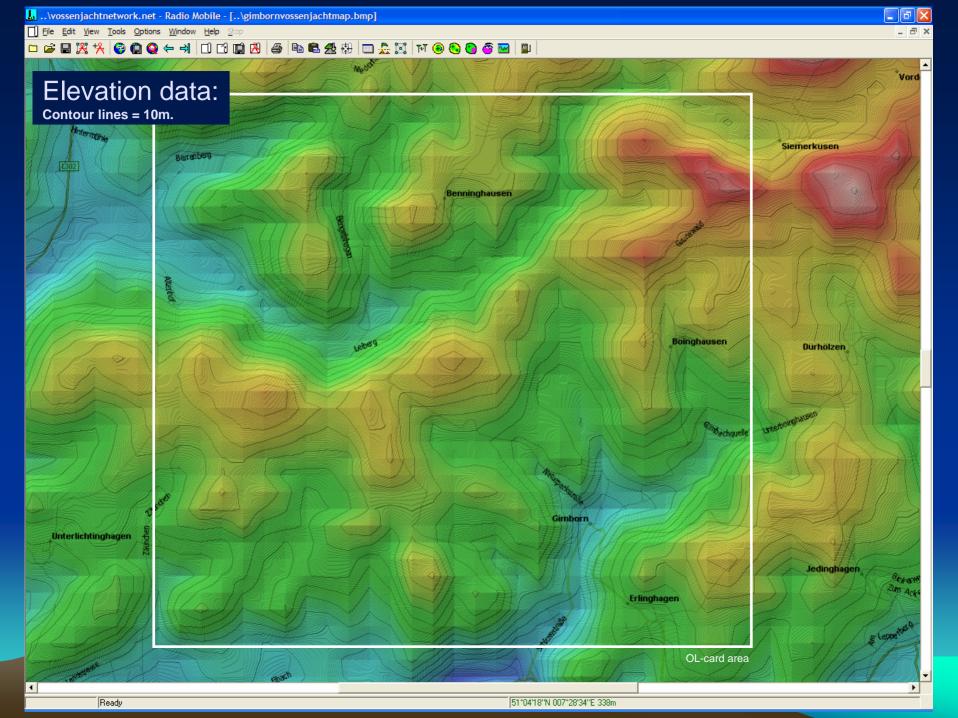


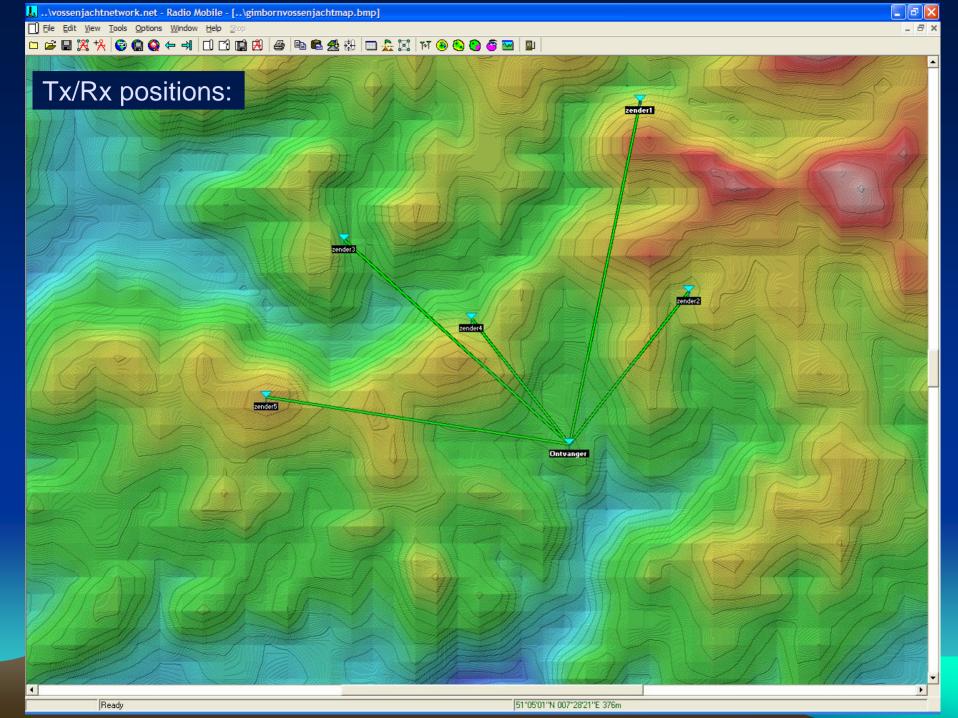






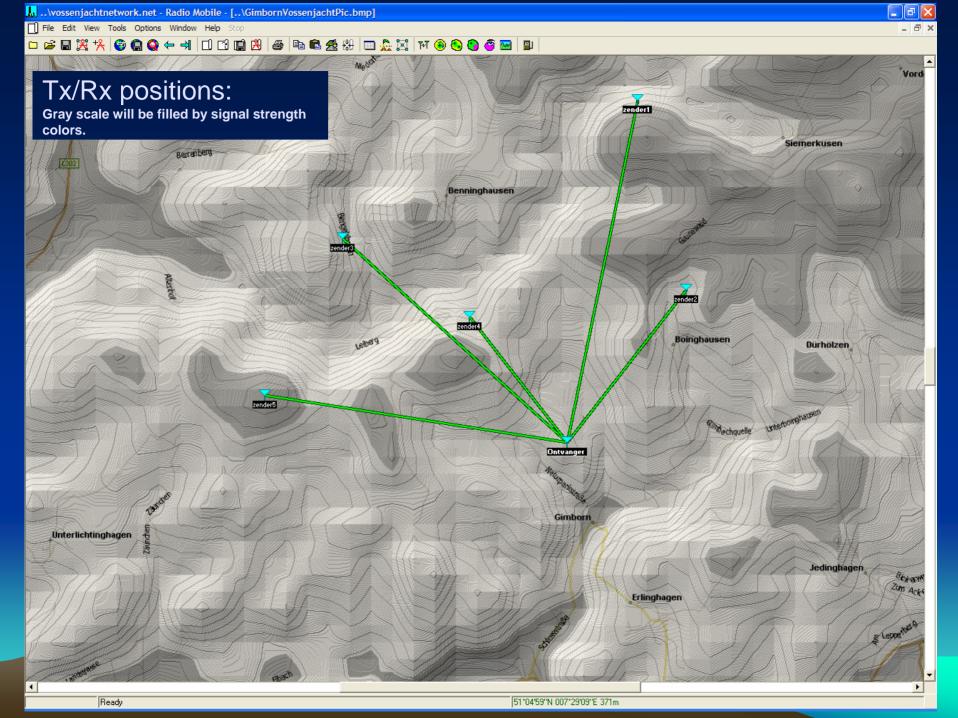


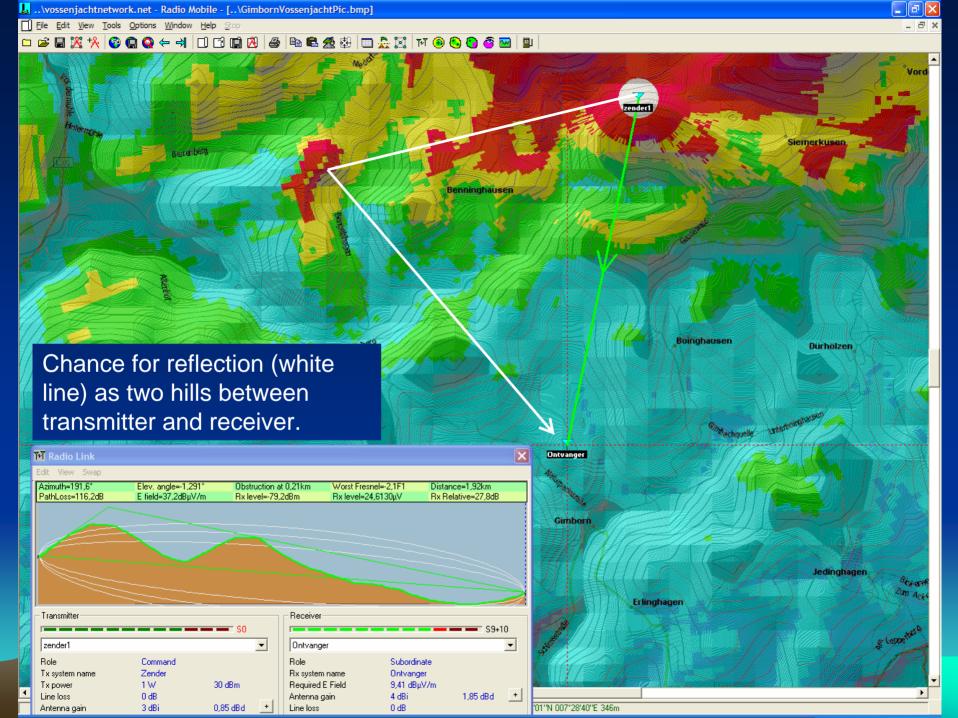


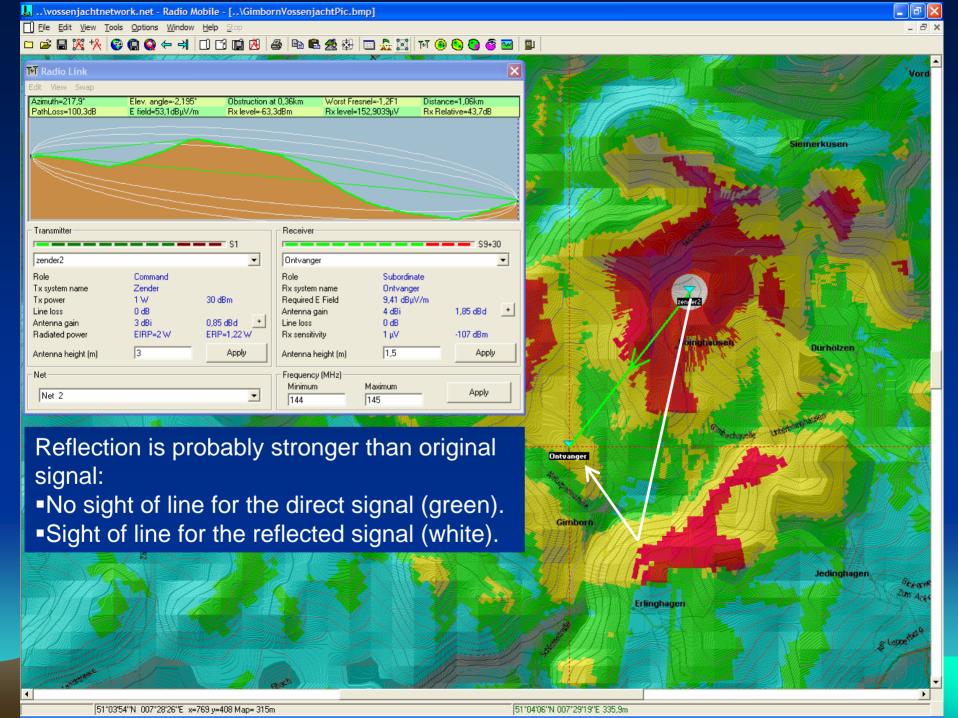


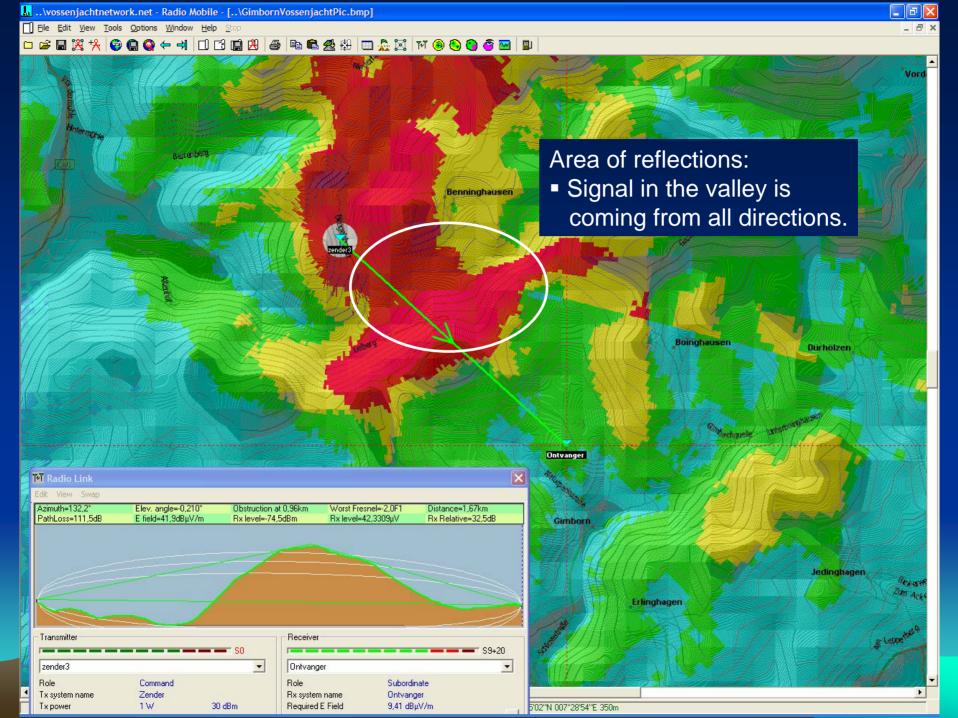
Simulation data:

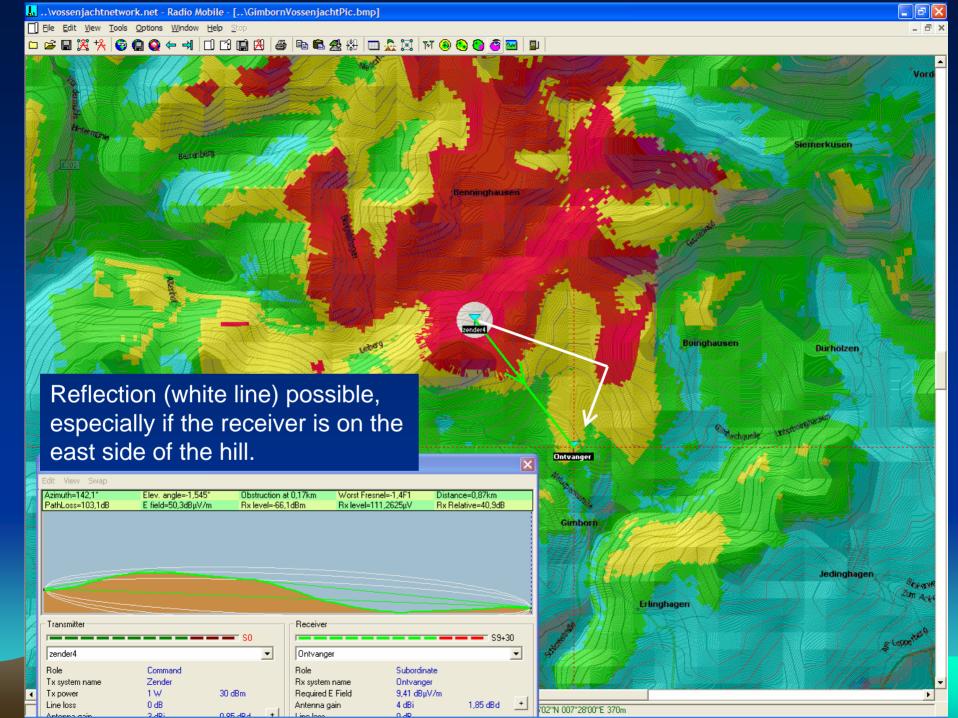
- $f_{min} = 144MHz$
- $f_{max} = 145MHz$
- Polarization = Horizontal
- Mode of variability = Mobile
- Climate = Maritime temperate over land
- Rx: 1uV, omni antenna 4dBi, height = 1.5m, 0dB cable loss
- Tx: 1W, omni antenna 3dBi, height = 3m, 1db/m loss.
- Propagation mode: Use "Two Rays" for Line-Of-Sight (Interference).

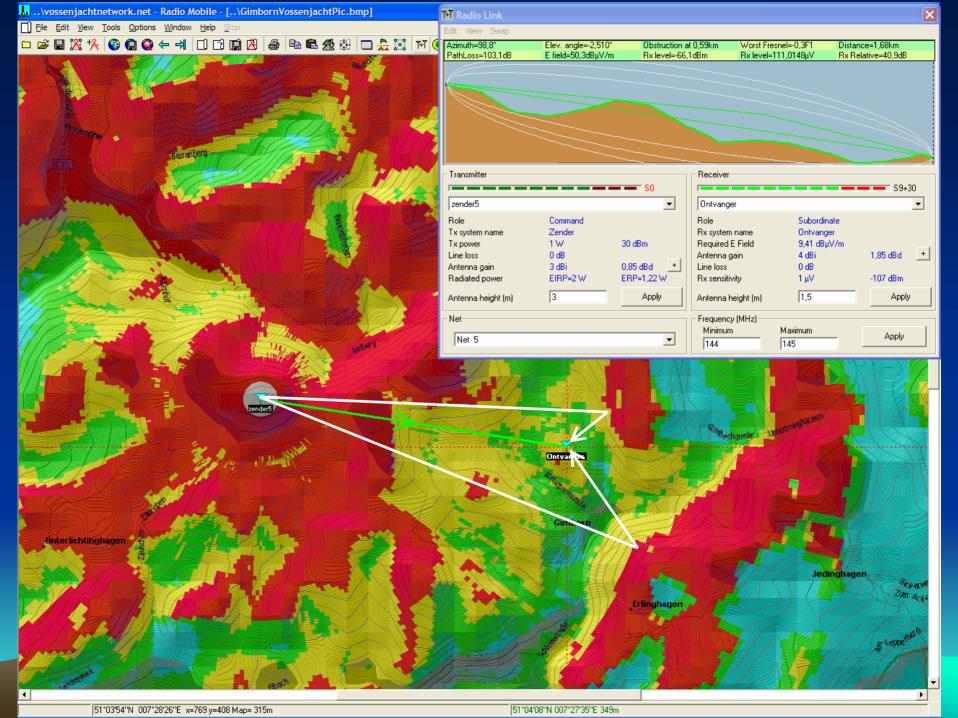












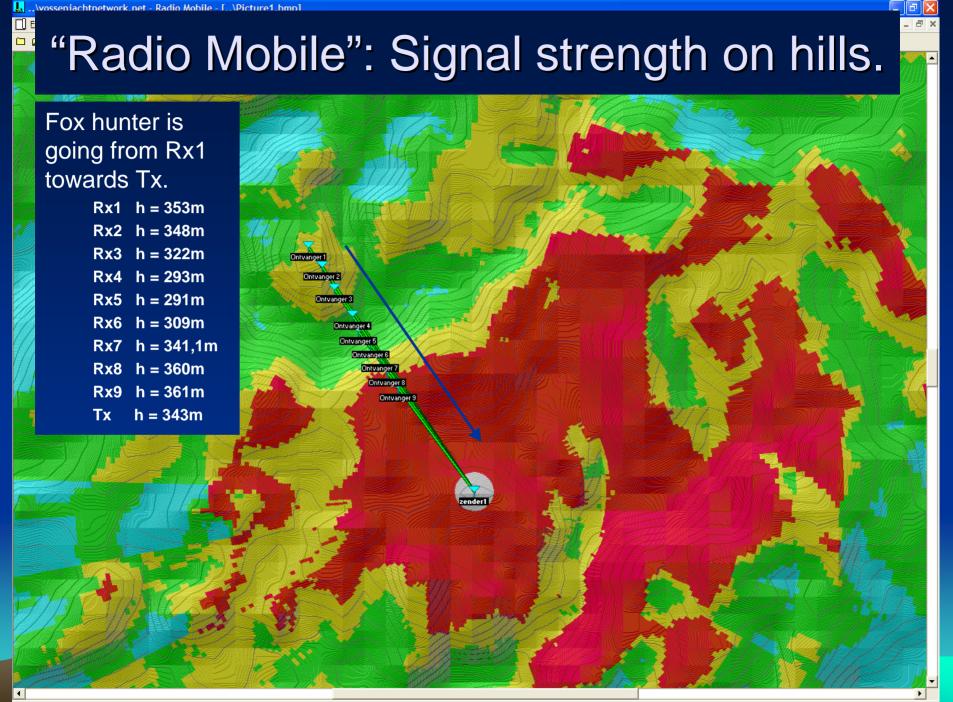
"Radio Mobile": Signal strength on hills.

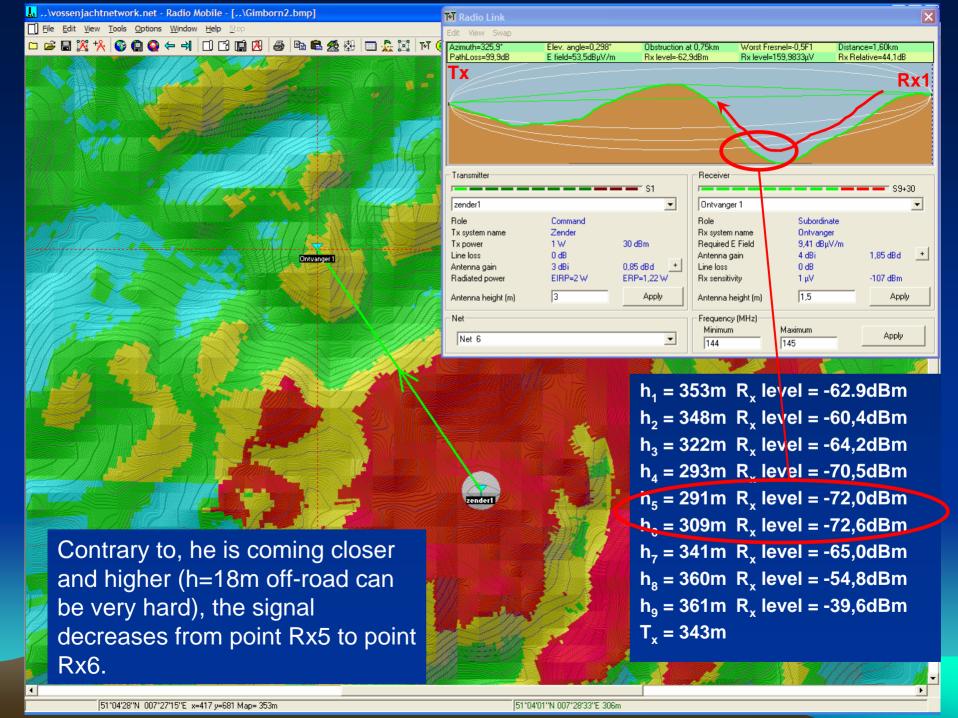


"Radio Mobile": Signal strength on hills.

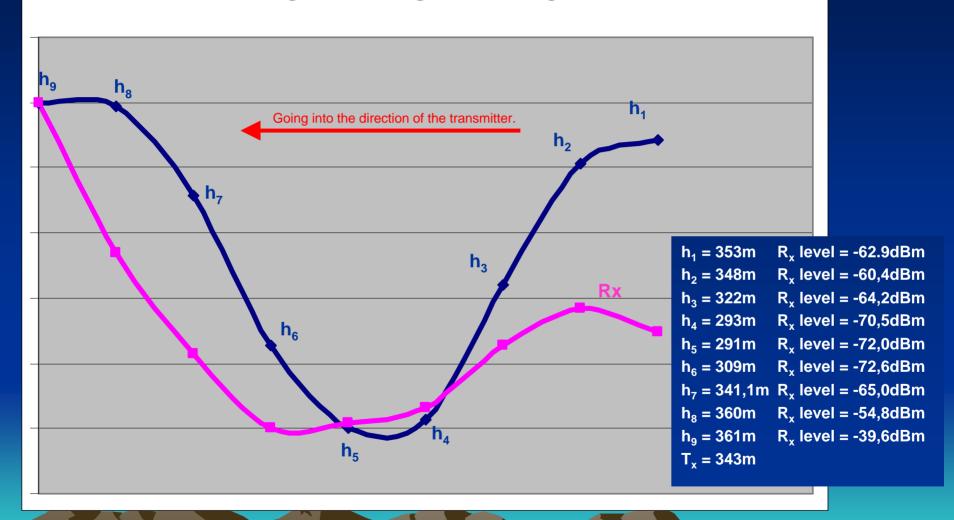
The "hell" for a 2m radio orienteering runner:







Signal strength vs. height.



Tips and tricks in hilly area.

Local Reflections:

Antenna with small opening angle e.g. 4 element Yagi.

Geographical Reflections:

- Always stay higher than the transmitter.
- Try to stay on the top of the hill (no reflections in your back).
- Shoot with your antenna in the valley, if the signal is weaker, the transmitter is in the next valley.
- Signal is weaker starting the ascend of the hill in case the transmitter is at the other side.
- The signal coming from all directions, means: you are lower than the transmitter.
- Right track can avoid reflection areas.

IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships '99, Nonsan, Korea







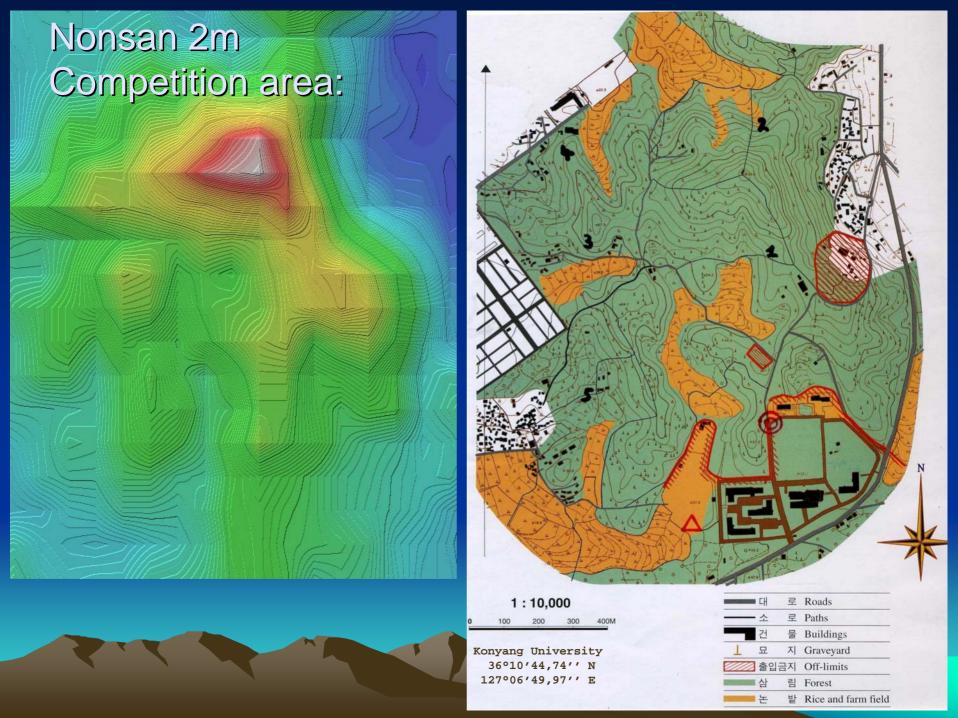


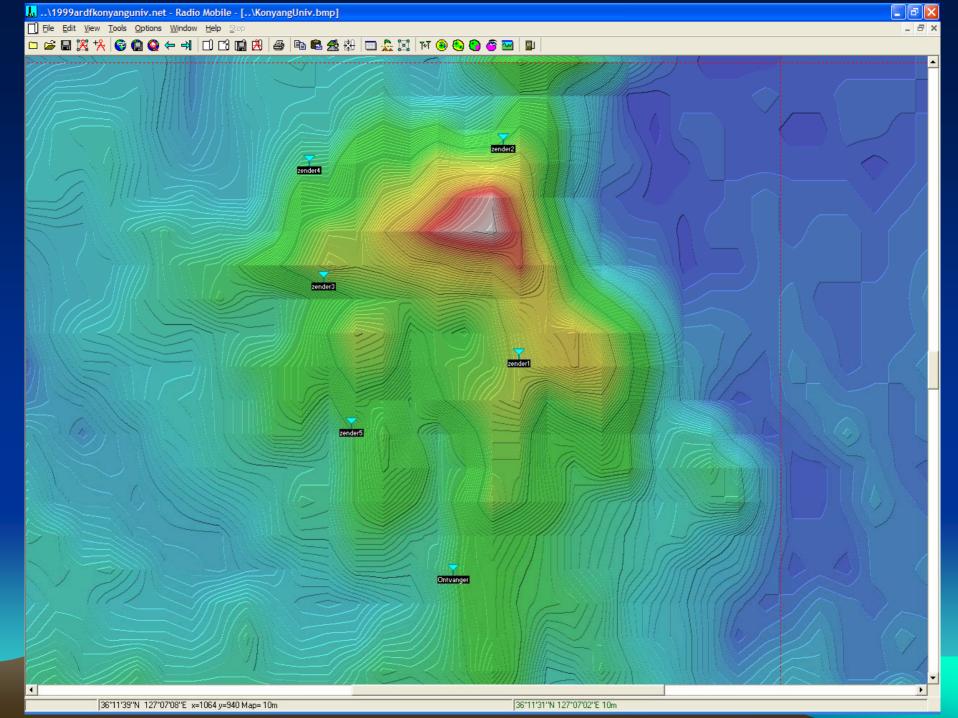


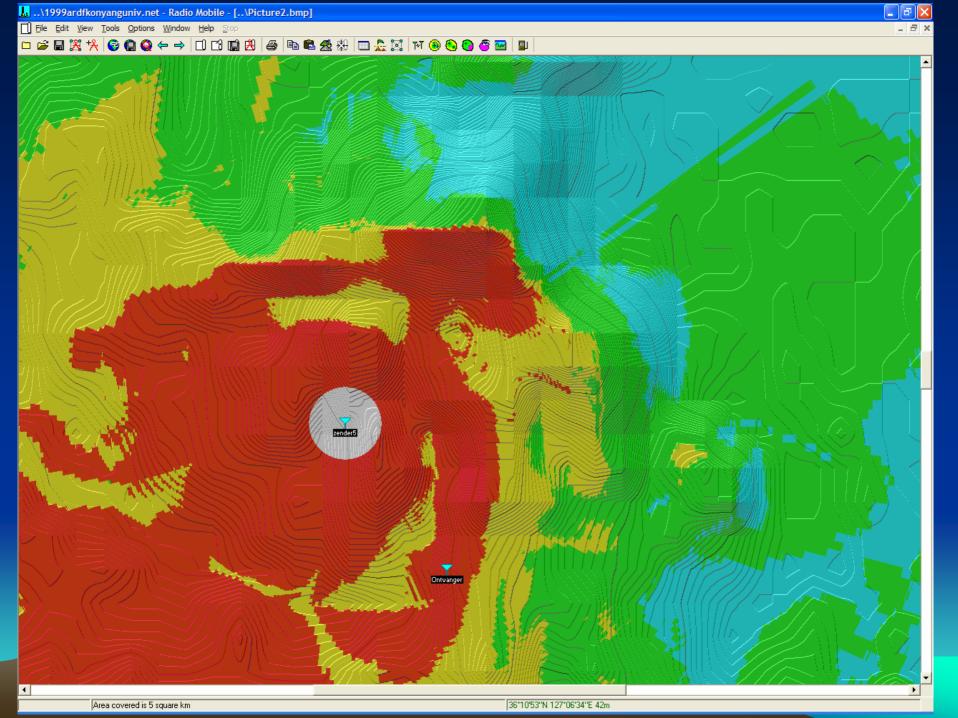


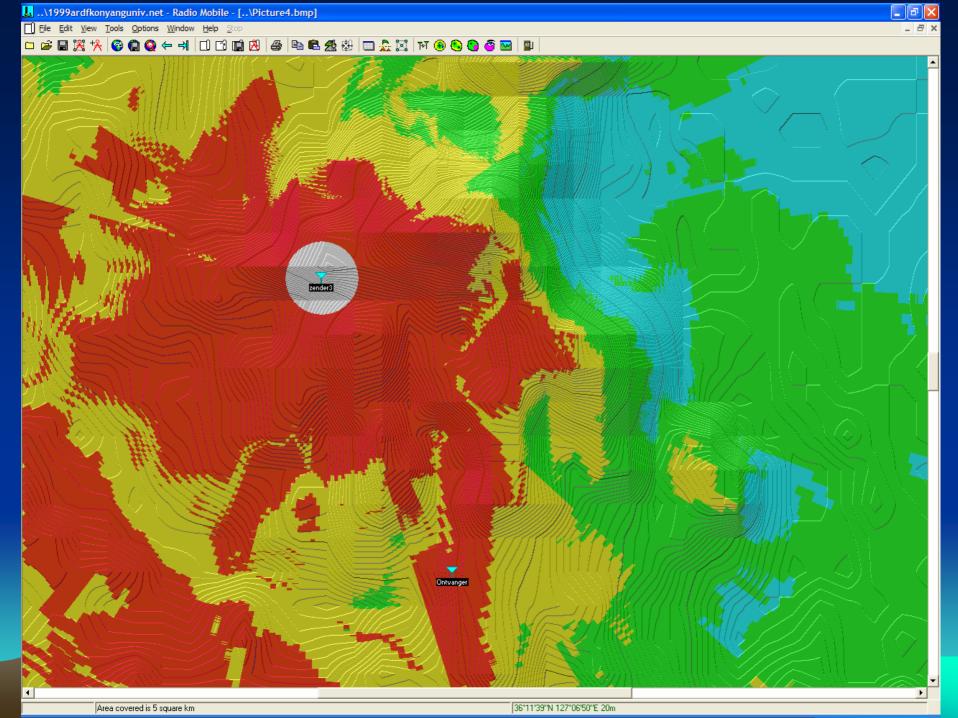
IARU Region 3 ARDF Championships '99, Nonsan, Korea

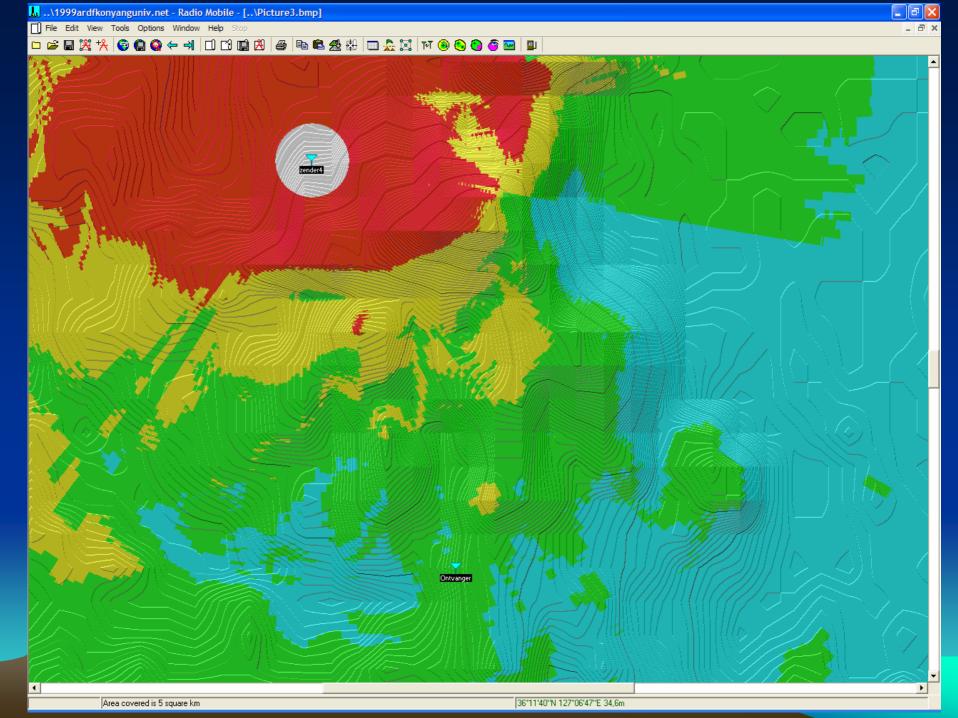


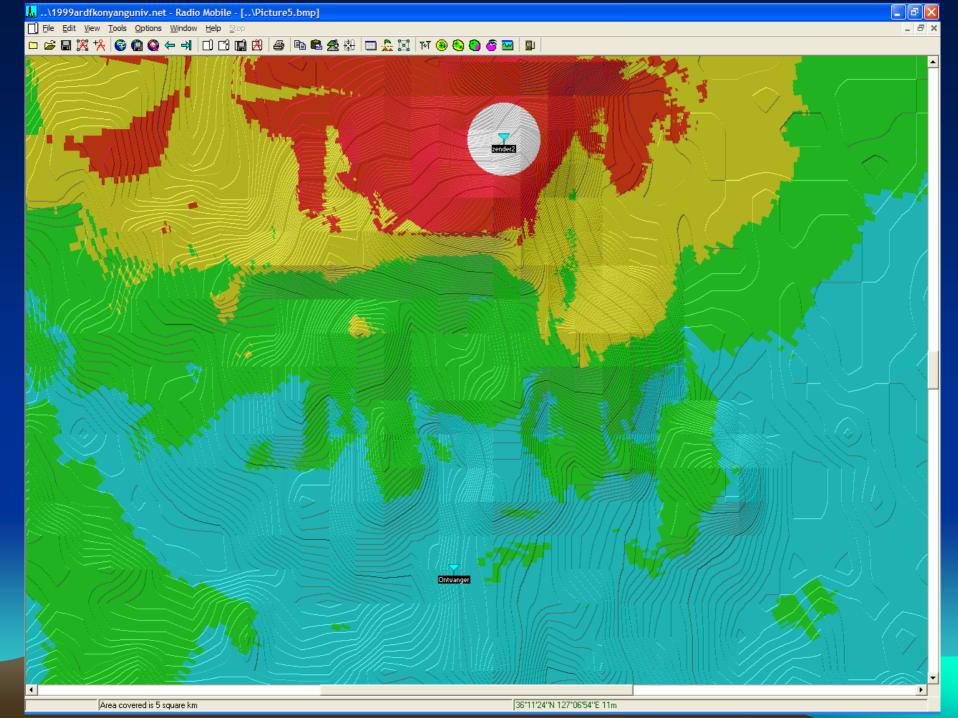


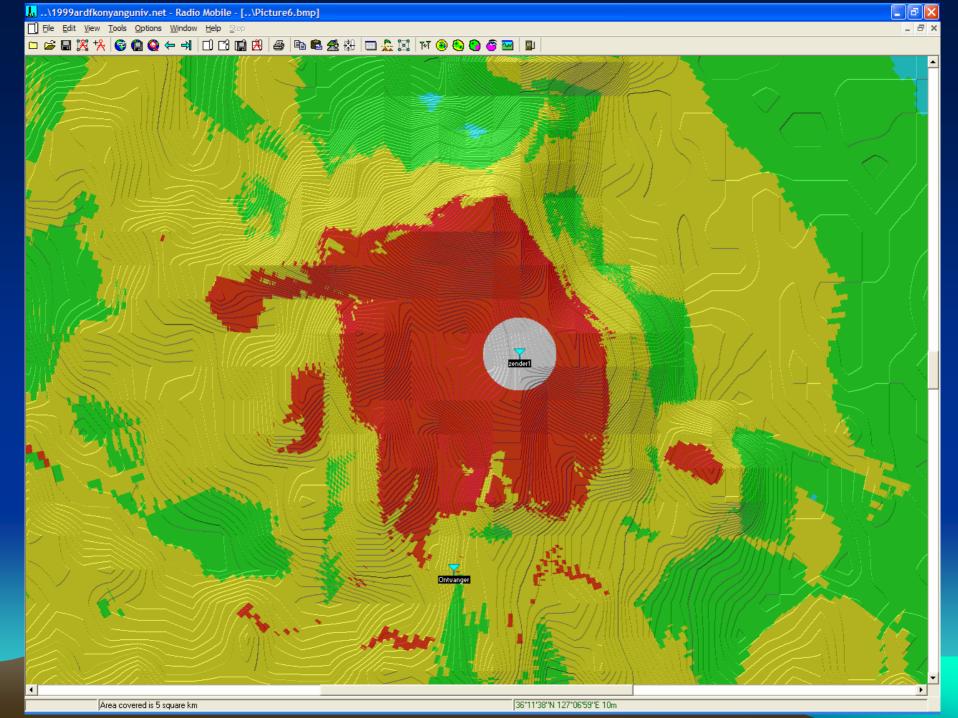












Summary.

- "Radio Mobile"
 - Free software.
 - User friendly.
 - Elevation and map information are downloadable from the internet.
- Simulation with "Radio Mobile"
 - Useful for ARDF trainings:
 - May give indication of reflections directions.
 - May show reflection areas.
 - Is suitable to do area investigation.

