

Special Series: Game Design for Contesters – Part 2

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- Adding an IF Output to a K3 Subreceiver
- Contesting from Tunisia
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Top Photo: Ashraf, KF5EYY, operated 3V8SS in Tunisia to a first place SOLP finish in the 2011 ARRL RTTY Roundup. Inside, a look at ham radio in Tunisia after the revolution.

Bottom Photo: Team "Orange Crush" operates PJ4X from Bonaire during the ARRL International DX CW. Inside, learn why "mults are."

Contesting from Tunisia

Tunisia underwent a tumultuous revolution a year ago. The North African nation has been liberal with respect to Amateur Radio for a few decades now, but changes are in store. The country's main industry is tourism, so the people and the authorities are more open to some Western ways. In some Third World countries few understand ham radio or its potential benefits.

I visited Tunisia a year after the January 2011 revolution. I was lucky to be able to see one of the most active club stations in Tunisia right now — 3V8SS in Sousse. Only clubs are allowed to have Amateur Radio stations there, and not all of them are actually able to be on the air.

Sousse is medium size town some 140 km south of the capital, Tunis, with long, sandy beaches and some good

hotels. The club is located in the Scouts building. The custodian and the most active operator of the club is Ashraf, who is 28. He has no call sign in Tunisia, but while visiting

Texas 2 years ago, he passed the FCC exam and holds the US call sign KF5EYY.

Ashraf lives and works in Tunis, so he comes to Sousse only for major contests.



Figure 1 — Ashraf is not afraid of climbing a tower, the most recent addition to the 3V8SS antenna farm.



Figure 2 — The building of Scouts organization in Sousse, Tunisia.



Figure 3 — Ashraf at the controls of 3V8SS club station in Sousse. Ashraf has become enthusiastic about RTTY and recently received his certificate declaring him Tunisia's SOLP category winner in the 2011 ARRL RTTY Roundup.

He operates all modes and recently has been focusing on RTTY. The equipment of 3V8SS falls short of US contesting standards. As far as I know all equipment and antennas were donated by visitors and other benefactors. I hope that visitors will continue to support the club. I made a small contribution toward the betterment of the station. Ashraf maintains a well-illustrated Website (www.kf5eyy.com) about his activities and the 3V8SS club in particular.

A national Amateur Radio organization to represent Tunisian radio enthusiasts nationally and internationally as an International Amateur Radio Union membership society remains under development in Tunisia. The IARU currently is considering applications from two organizations. In addition, Tunisian hams are expecting Amateur Radio regulations there to be brought into line with those of Europe. So, we can expect much more activity on all ham bands from 3V.

Hams visiting Tunisia from abroad are advised to respect local traditions, laws and customs. For example, the legal power limit in Tunisia currently is 150 W, so the use of high power amplifiers there may harm relations with the administration.

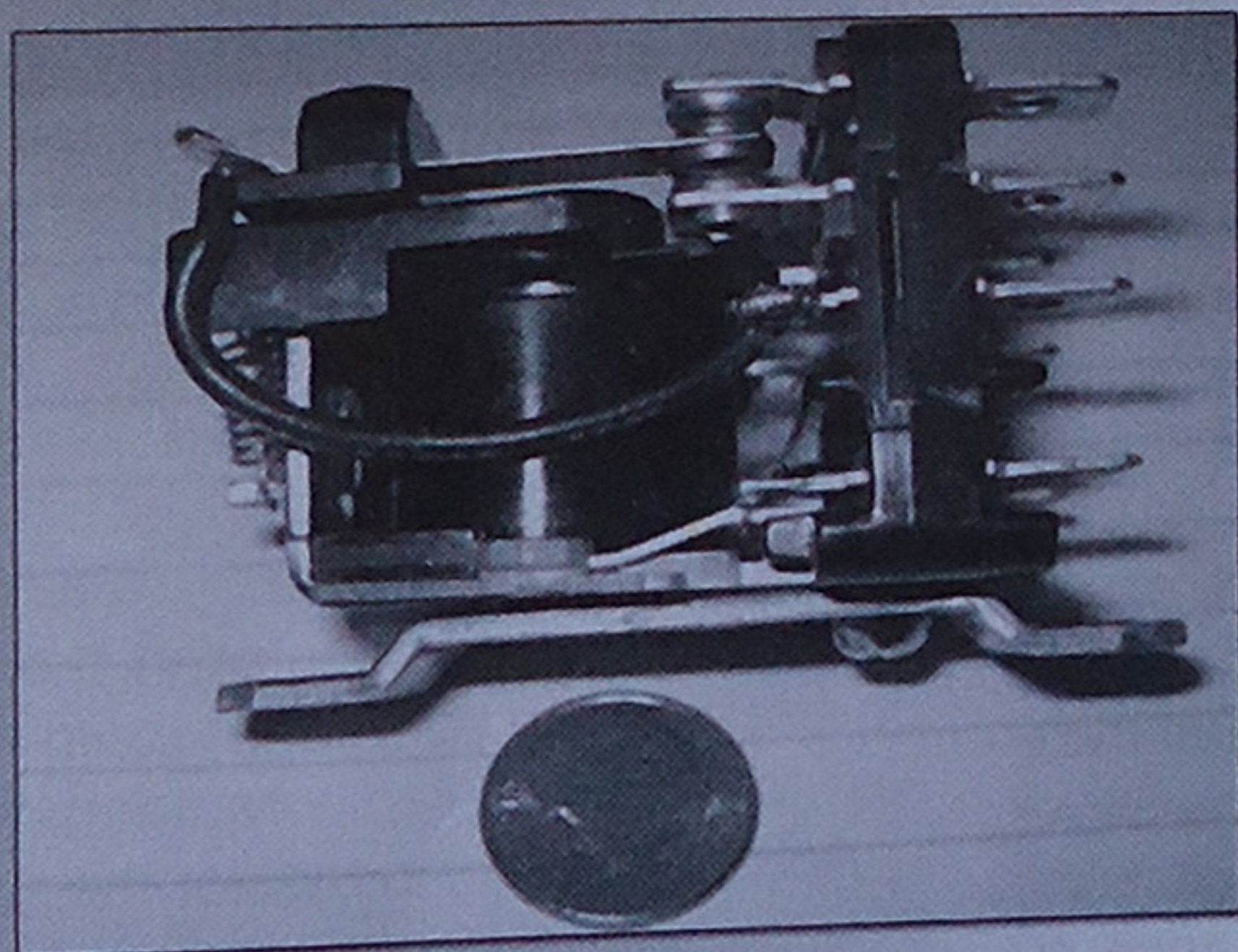


Figure 4 — The roof of Scouts house in Sousse is filled with antennas.

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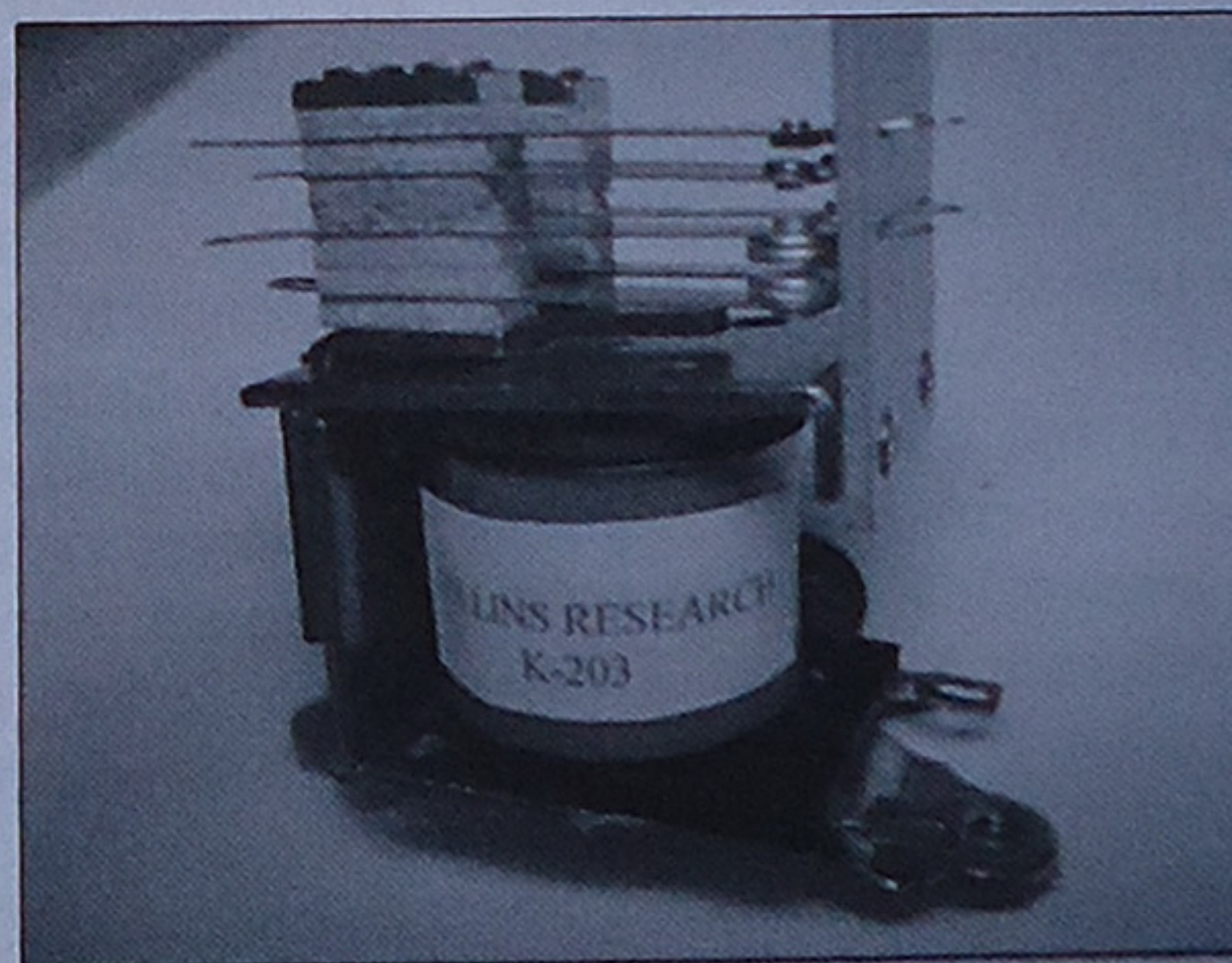
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