

An overview of how
I put together my
POTA and Contest
go boxes



POTA / Contest Rigs

JESSE JARRELL - W1BBT - NOV 6, 2025

Contest Setup

- 26' Enclosed trailer complete setup for boondocking
- Multiple antenna setups
- Multiple operators



Rotomold Boxes

- Chose Milwaukee Packout due to the larger selection of box types
- Other brands include Ryobi, Dewalt, Craftsman, Husky, Makita, etc.

ROLLING TOOL BOX

48-22-8426



LARGE TOOL BOX

48-22-8425



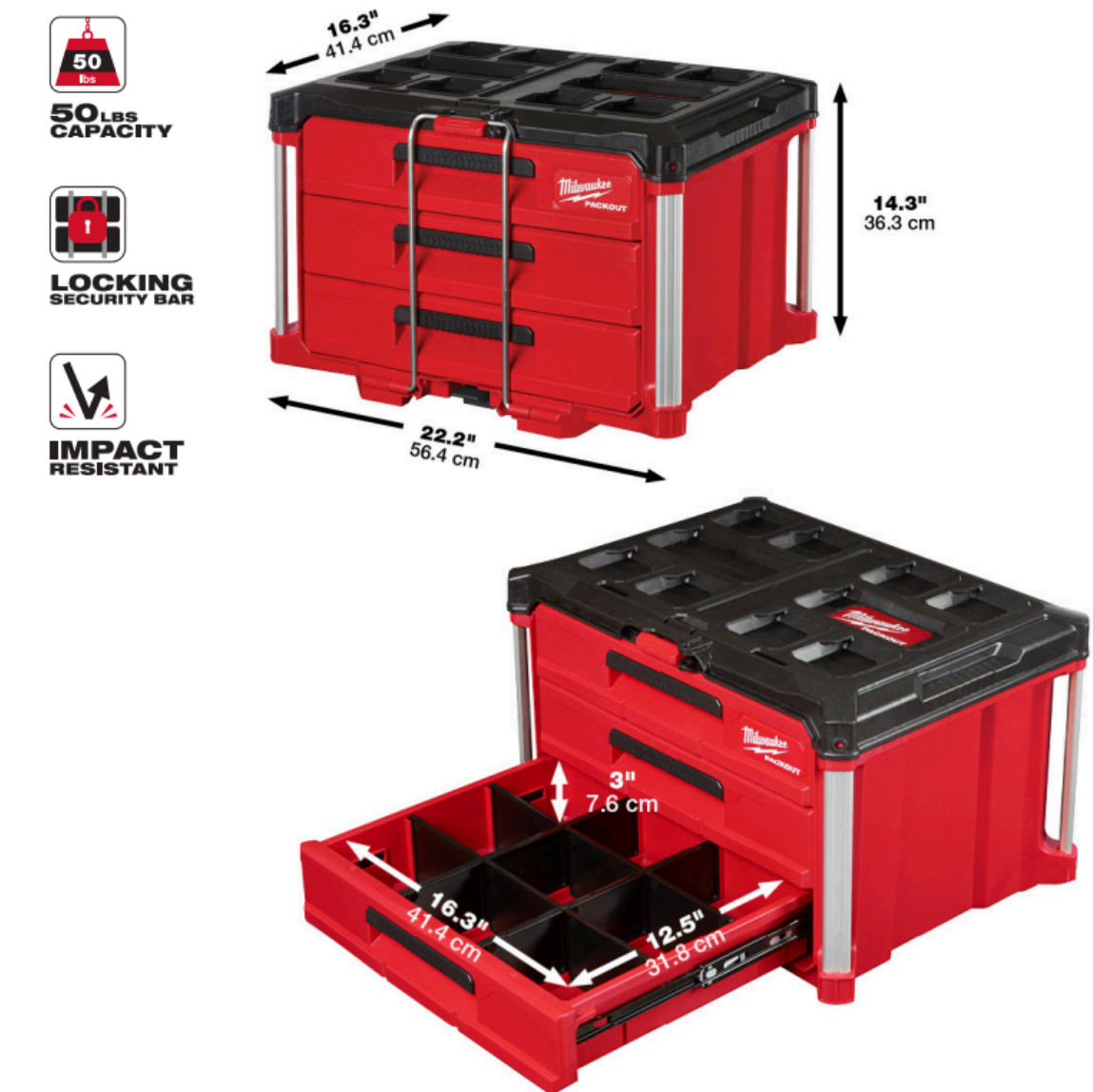
TOOL BOX

48-22-8424



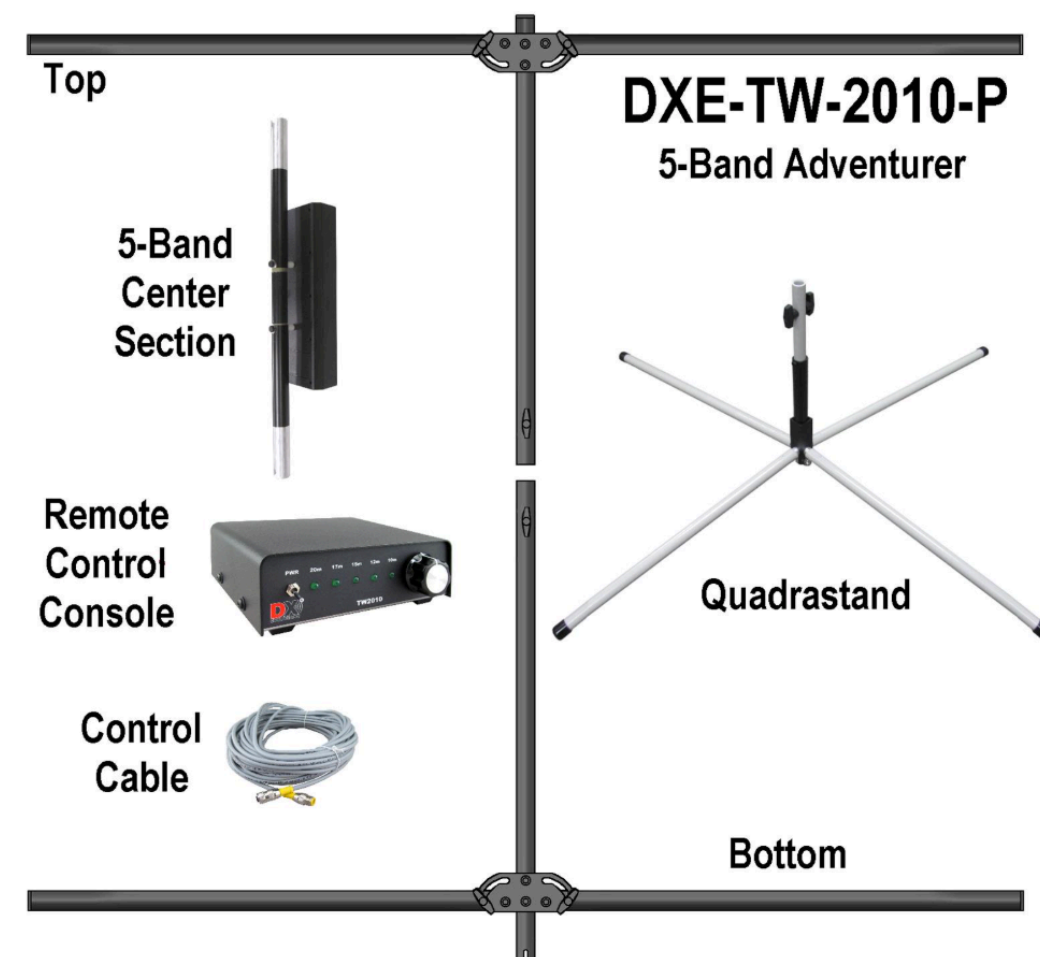
3-DRAWER TOOL BOX

48-22-8443



Radios & Antennas

- HF - Yaesu FT-891
 - DigiRig 891
 - MyAntennas EFHW-1K 40-10
 - Trans World 5 Band Explorer + 40m
 - Operate at 50w
- VHF - Yaesu FT-310DRASP
 - Diamond X-300



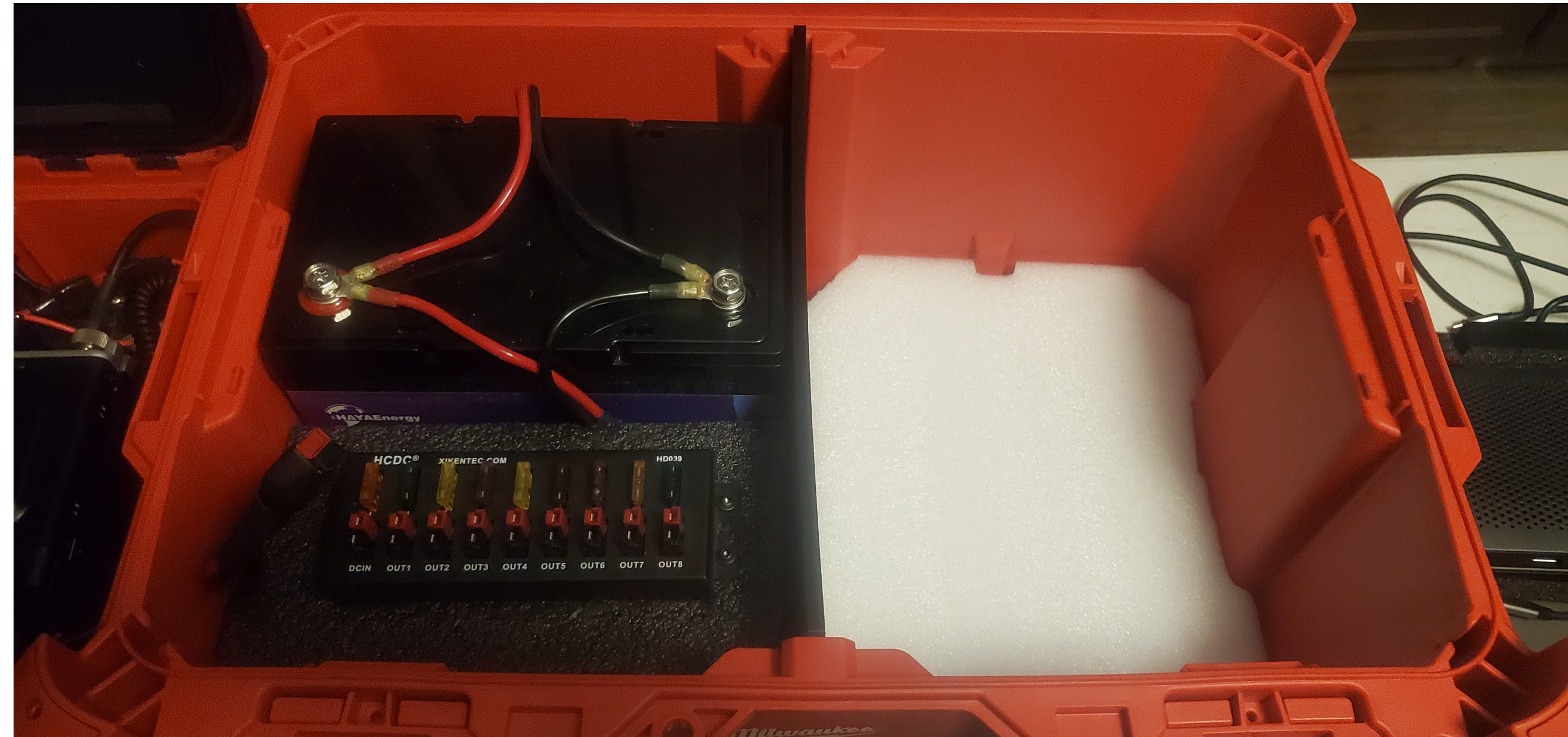
Batteries Included - Contest

- Contest Rig - 2 x 100ah 12v LiPO4 batteries
 - Powers computer/monitors/radios operating constant FT8 for ~16 hours for each battery
 - One can be charging while the other is being used



Batteries Included - POTA / EMCOMM

- 1 x 50ah 12v LiPO4 battery
- Estimated EMCOMM runtime is 24 hours
- Box has room to store antenna controller, 12v computer, coax, etc.



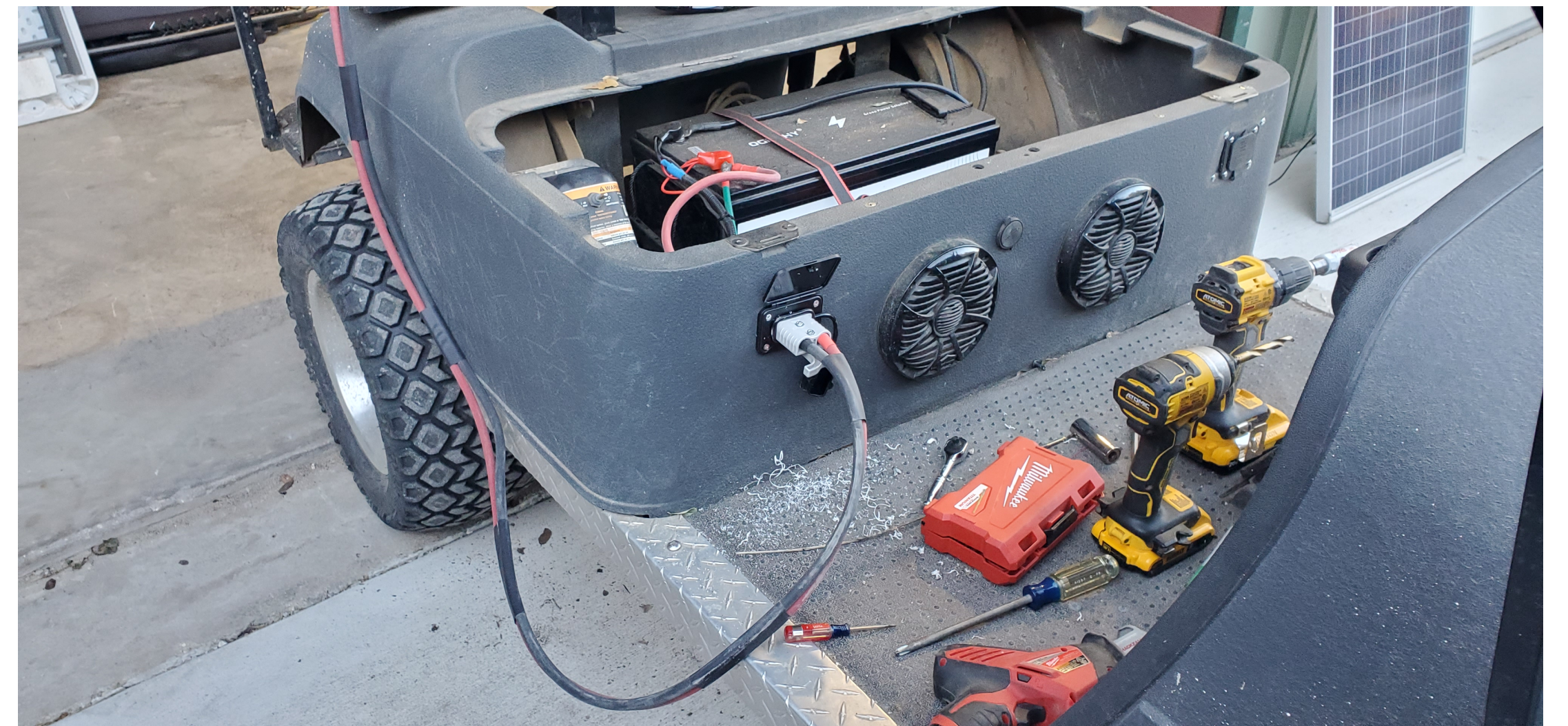
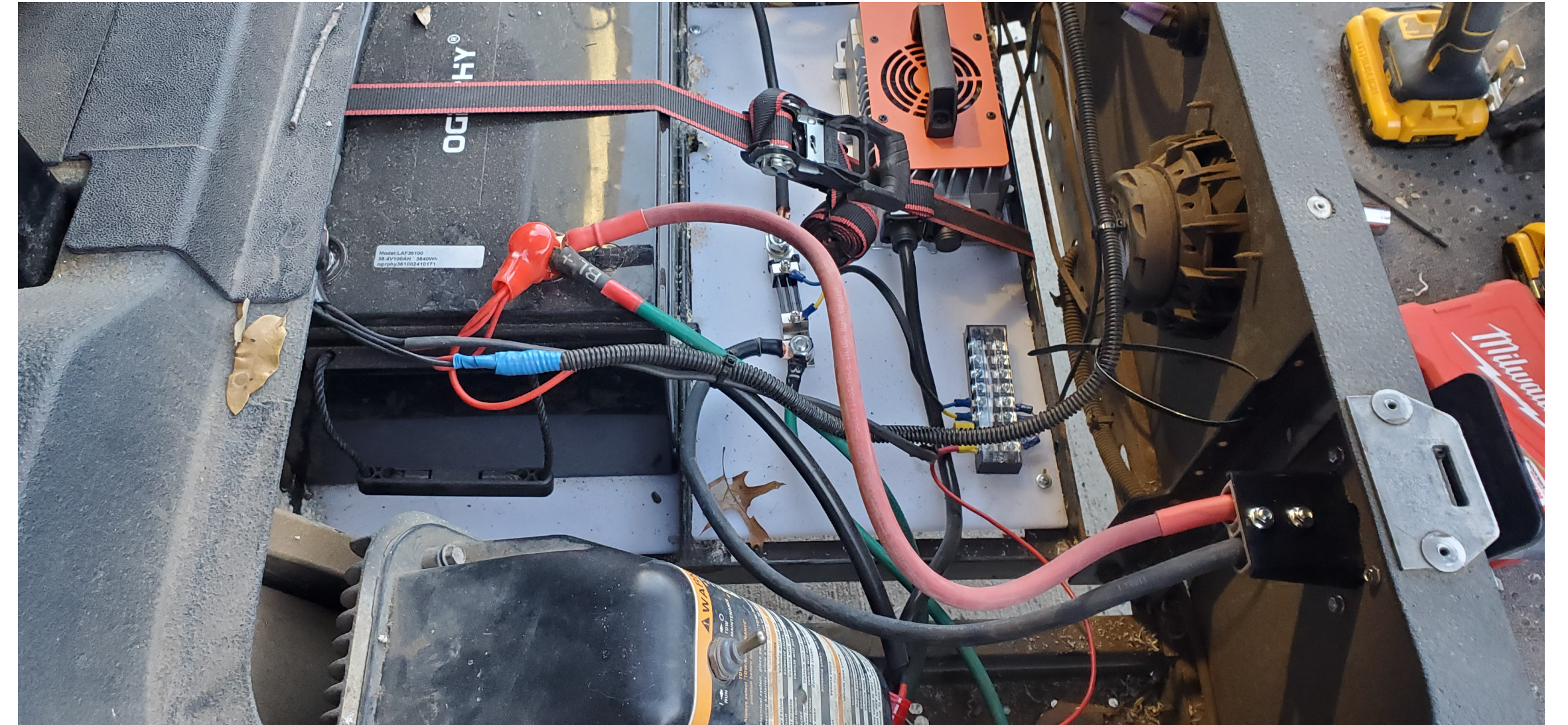
Batteries Included - Extended Stay

- Anker Solix F2000
 - Can be used as a UPS
 - Can be attached to solar panels
 - RV Plug for powering enclosed trailer



Batteries Included

- 36v Golf Cart 100ah battery
- 36v 3000w inverter
- Ran the enclosed trailer over the entire Winter Field Day event and still had 50% battery left

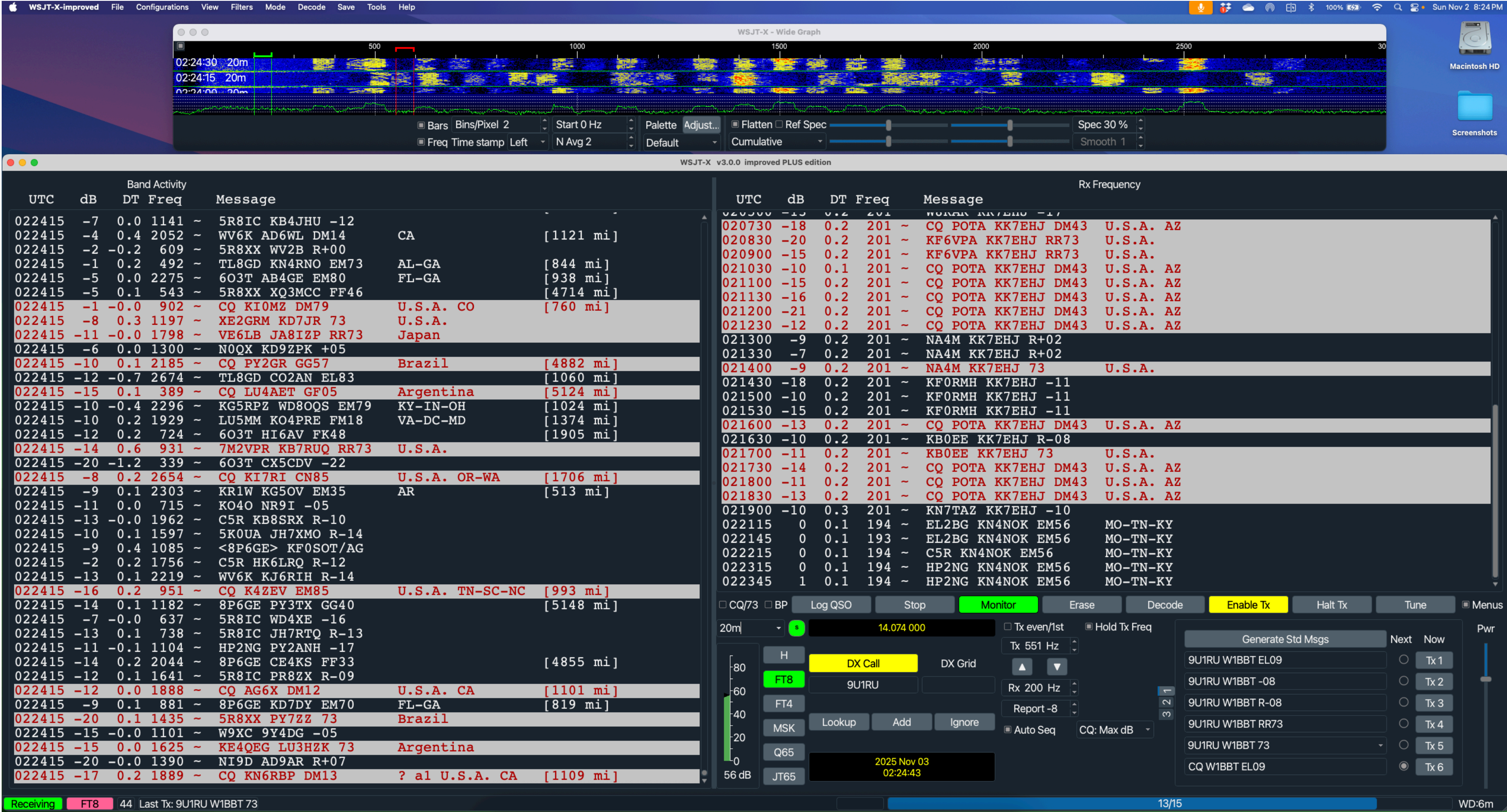


Go Box Build Cost (Shipped)

- Radios - \$1300 (DX - \$700 FT-891, Gigaparts - \$600 FTM-310DRASP)
- 50' of 8X coax (DX - \$80 orange, \$55 black)
- Packout Boxes - \$400 (Home Depot Online during a MAJOR sale)
- Batteries - \$370 (Facebook Marketplace - \$140 x 2, Amazon - \$90 x 1)
- 12v Computer - \$190 (Amazon)
- 15" Screens - \$140 (Amazon - \$70 x 2)
- Misc connectors and wire - \$100 (Amazon)

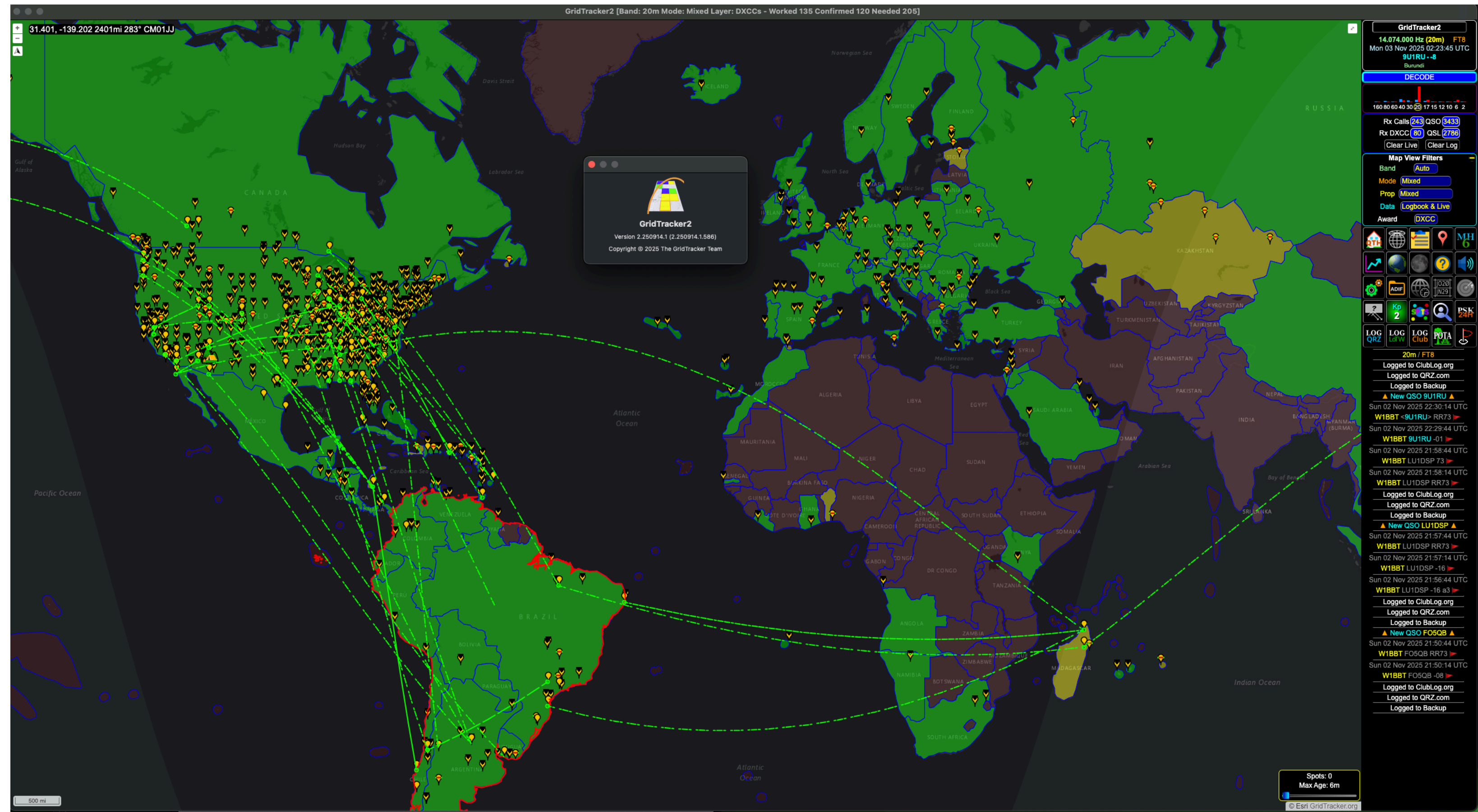
Software

- WSTJ-X Improved 3.0
 - Dark mode
 - Pounce mode
 - Call Lookup



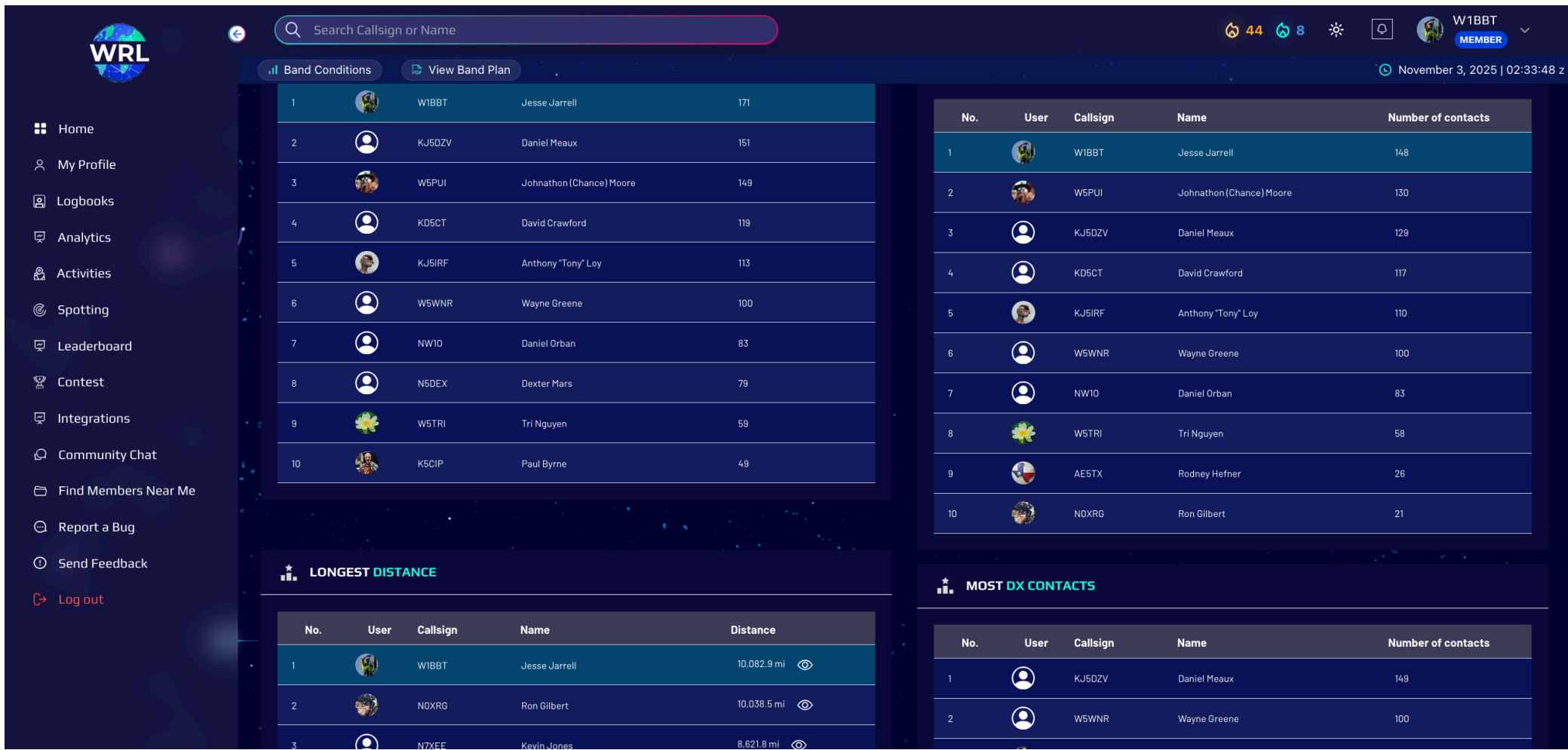
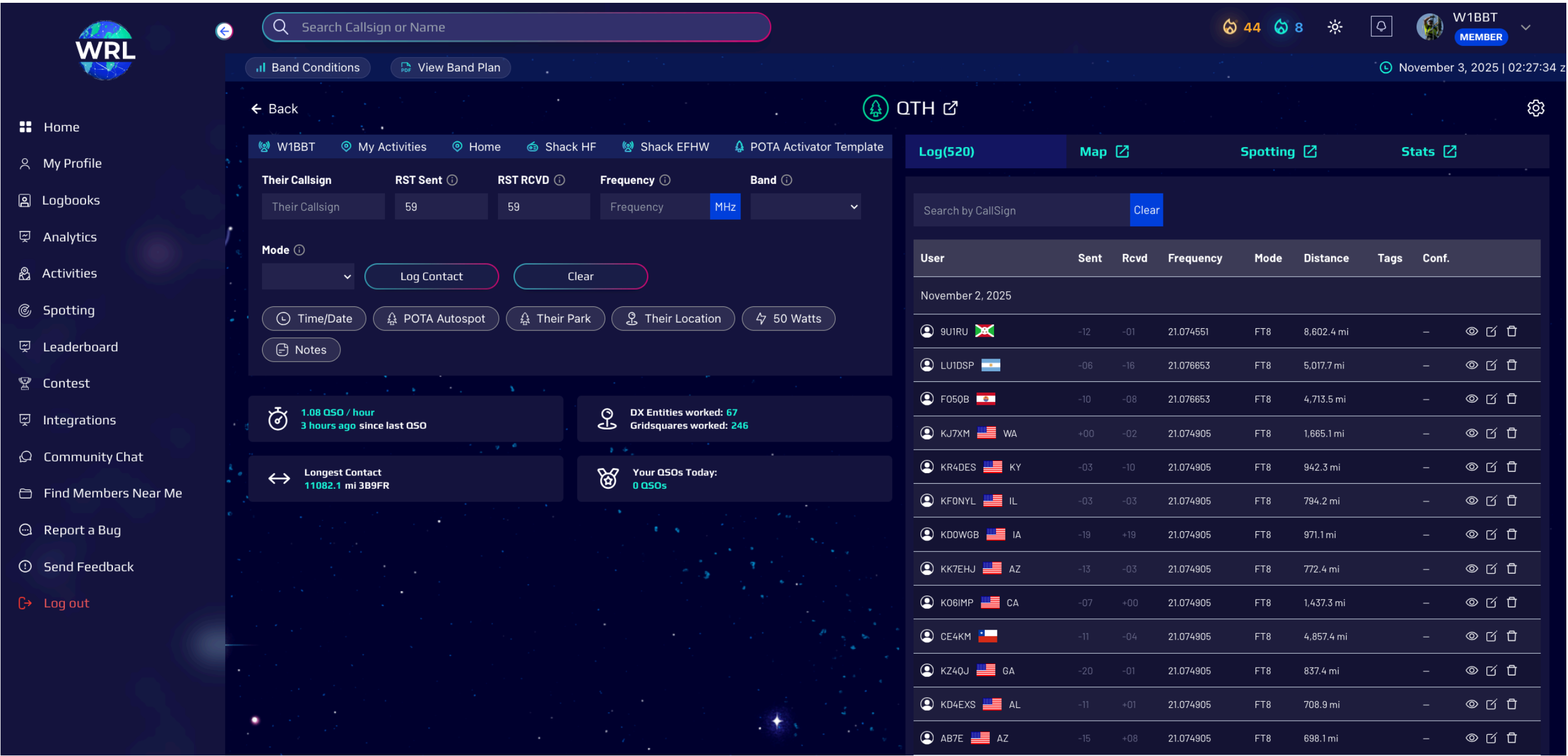
Software

- Gridtracker 2.25
 - Forwards logs to QRZ, Clublog and a backup file
- Forwards QSO to World Radio League's CAT Control



Software

- World Radio League
- Excellent offline system on iPad
- Auto uploads once re-connected to internet
- Been working with them over the past month with bug fixes and suggestions. VERY responsive and have implemented several of my suggestions.
- Currently browser based, but desktop version coming soon
- Leaderboard competition is addictive



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How to Save Money

- Do you *need* both HF and VHF?
- Buy used radios. Lots of deals at the hamfests.
- Milwaukee is the most expensive box. If expansion is not a priority, go with a cheaper brand
- You don't need to do both POTA and Contest builds

Future Work

- Switch from using 12v Windows computer to MacBook Pro/iPad so that my shack and POTA experience is the same.
- Add more permanent lighting for working at night
- Adding whiteboard to enclosed trailer