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Instructor's Name

Course Title: Mobile Satellite TV Changes

February 8, 2016

### Changes Coming to Satellite Televisions Broadcasts

On February 11, 2015 I mentioned to attendees at my seminar at the Houston RV Show that changes were coming to mobile satellite service. I advised them that if they were considering a satellite antenna purchase that as of show time, there were only two satellite antennas that were compatible with DVBS2. Here is what I have heard....The two major U.S. Satellite TV providers are changing their broadcast protocols which will adversely effect all RV'er's ability to receive their signals. Since late 1990 the satellite TV broadcasters have used the DVB (QPSK) broadcast protocol, in-turn manufacturers of automatic self-seeking mobile satellite antennas have utilized digital information in the DVB signal to identify satellites and to lock on to the correct ones, depending on your provider. In the past month we have received numerous phone calls about systems no longer locking onto satellites so it has begun.

More, more, more; everyone wants more programing, that is why Dish Network and DirecTV have had to utilize multiple satellites located in several orbital positions (Slots) to satisfy the need for the bandwidth required to supply all of this programming. The

demand for bandwidth led to the development of DVBS2 (8PSK) broadcast protocol which allows for 34% more bandwidth among other benefits. Therein lies our problem, the equipment on our RV's, designed to operate with DVB, will cease to function as these changes are implemented.

Beginning August 24, 2015, Dish Network began transitioning to DVBS2 which was completed by the end of September. The Dish Network transition affected DirecTV subscribers also, DirecTV leases transponder space on Dish Network's 119 degree satellite for a few select SD (Standard Definition) local channels. Some antennas used the signal from the 119 satellite to acquire a signal. Now that the 119 satellite has been transitioned to DVBS2, the older antennas that use 119 are failing to lock on to and track any satellites.

DirecTV will be changing things too. I have been told by industry insiders that the DirecTV DVBS2 transition will be complete by 2017, secondly ALL programming will be moved back to the 101 orbital slot which is great for RV'er's since the dome antennas will no longer be required to switch satellites allowing for multiple receivers.

To further educate our current and potential customers, I wrote to the major mobile satellite antenna providers seeking current product compatibility information. Please note, this information is only accurate today, future changes will negate the accuracy

this information. This is especially true when DirecTV begins to make changes, by then I believe all of the older systems will cease to function.

**Responses from manufacturers regarding current RV system compatibility:**

**King Dome:** Tailgater & KD3000. \*Note\* For some reason, the very old 9702 still works with DirecTV 101

**KVH:** RV1

\*Note\* There is a manually installed patch for the R4, R5, R6 & R1. This will allow these units to continue to operate while there is still a DVB transponder active. This can go away at any time

**Winegard:** All current production Winegard products

**RF Mogul:** All Current production Eagle Systems, older systems with the exception of the original RF Mogul can be updated

What was once the “Cadillac” of the in-motion satellites, Tracstar Systems, these units are unfortunately no longer reliable as are all of the MotoSat systems. Like many of you, Helen and I have these on our motorhome. Presently we highly recommend the KVH RV1 for in-motion applications and any of the Winegard Travler Series for stationary and HD.

Please email [helen@billyt.com](mailto:helen@billyt.com) for more information about mobile satellite TV. For more information about the DVBS2 (8PSK) check out this Link:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DVB-S2>

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