

- *Runs an Internet list of all FTA channels in North America*
- *Monitoring station with a total of five satellite dishes*
- *Recently active in IPTV*
- *Provides easy-to-understand satellite reception tips on his website*

The FTA Fan

■ Michael Kilgore lives and works in this single-family home in Denver, Colorado in the USA. He operates his two websites (www.ftalist.com and www.ftablog.com) from here; both of them deal with the reception of free satellite TV channels.

The North American Satellite List

Most of the TV channels that can be received in North America via satellite come from one of the large satellite PayTV providers. In other words, the only way to receive them is to subscribe to the service with which you also get the required receiver. The actual installation of the system is handled by contractors to the PayTV provider and, as you would expect, the antenna points to one or more of the satellites from the PayTV provider.

If you want to watch free TV, you first have to figure out what satellites carry FTA (free-to-air) channels. This is exactly the situation that faced Michael Kilgore back in 2003 when he erected his first satellite system. "I installed a small dish and pointed it to GALAXY 10R."

It didn't take him long to realize that other satellites also carried FTA channels so in 2004 he installed a second dish with a DiSEqC motor. "There were more channels up there than I thought and I began to wonder why there wasn't a more consolidated list of information available on the Internet."

This led to the birth of the website www.ftalist.com that Michael started in December

■ Michael Kilgore erected this 1.2-meter antenna in his backyard. The LNB in the focal point is for the Ku-band but when Michael wants to update his TV list, he swaps out the Ku-band LNB for a C-band LNB. "I can receive 20 or 30 TV channels with this small antenna."



of 2004. On this website he lists all the FTA channels receivable in North America. "The user can sort by language (English, Spanish and others) and will then be provided with a list of the currently active channels along with all the necessary technical data."

Since then the list has become the standard source of free TV reception via satellite in the USA. In May of 2006 he expanded his Internet presence with the website www.ftablog.com on which he comments on all the new things happening in the satellite scene. "Recently interest has moved more and more to Internet and IPTV", noticed Michael. He also provides detailed blogs on the two electronics trade shows CES and NAB that take place in Las Vegas every year.

Michael is so occupied with IPTV



1. Michael uses a robust STAB motor to move his 1.2-meter dish.
2. Michael installed his very first dish beyond his backyard fence but still within his property lines. "The mast is set in a large flower pot that I buried in the ground." It's a smart way to avoid pouring cement directly into the ground.



that he even started his own TV channel on a test basis. "For several weeks now I've been offering a TV channel with copyright-free content via the company TVU Networks." This compa-

ny (www.tvunetworks.com) provides an opportunity for everyone to start their own IPTV channel.

Michael is always busy trying out

new possibilities and finding out if they are compatible with the future. "I'm waiting for my house to get connected to fiber optic cable so that my Internet speed is sufficiently fast

enough for interference-free IPTV reception."

Maybe Michael will then start another website – this time covering IPTV.

■ Michael uses an 80cm dish that is also motorized for experimental reception. He mounted this antenna on a wooden framework. "My wife simply doesn't want me to install these dishes permanently in the ground." Michael designed the framework in such a way that the mast feet fit perfectly on the two center beams. This improvised solution is clearly "wife-friendly".



■ A DishNetwork antenna with three LNBs as well as a log periodic antenna round out Michael Kilgore's antenna farm.



1. Michael Kilgore in his shack. He uses the monitor to the left to operate his websites while the monitor to the right is connected to his satellite receivers.

2. Michael Kilgore has been reading TELE-satellite for many years. He has saved the older issues and regularly reads the new issues in the Internet.

