

Satellite DXer for 35 Years

■ Barely recognizable from the street Jack Moran's 3.0-meter dish in the yard of his home in Chula Vista near San Diego in southern California.

- *One of the first satellite DXers in the USA*
- *Regularly records bullfights*
- *Has his own editing studio in his home*
- *Follows NASA's TV broadcasts*



■ Jack Moran's 3.0-meter antenna. The mast makes up part of a chicken coup; the chickens feel quite comfortable under the dish.

1. Jack Moran rarely performs anymore tests. He has, just for that purpose, erected a mast in such a way that he can easily check out new dishes and LNBs.
2. Jack shows us the dish farm on his roof. "At the moment only one of those dishes is connected and functioning." Jack collected 11 Ku-band antennas.



There weren't that many satellite DXers back in 1978: TV via satellite was still in its infancy towards the end of the 70's. But for Jack Moran it was nothing out of the ordinary; he has always worked in broadcasting.

We met up with Jack Moran in his home in Chula Vista, California, located near San Diego in the southwestern corner of the USA right next to the Mexican border. Jack Moran, who

recently retired, sat down with us and told us how he became a satellite DXer.

"I was interested in broadcasting technology way back when I was a boy", remembers Jack, "Later on as a soldier it became part of my job." Jack worked in nearly every aspect of the broadcasting world, from transmission technician to cameraman. He still sits behind the camera today covering a very special segment: he regularly

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films bullfights in Tijuana, Mexico right on the other side of the border. "The season goes from May to September every year and then on every Sunday there are bullfights that I fully record with my camera." Today he does this work only for fun but a few years ago he and his wife were actually able to make some money from this by selling DVDs of these bullfights. "2007 was our best year; we managed to sell 1500 DVDs."

The Internet, though, has brought this business to a standstill – not many people buy DVDs these days anymore. "I am fascinated with bullfighting; in fact, I stood in the arena as a Tore-ro myself back in my younger days", beams Jack as he shows us a picture from the old days.

His fascination with bullfighting is the reason why he converted his home into a real studio. He collected countless pieces of equipment and connected them all together so that he could electronically edit the videos and store them on a server in his home. "I have five fixed IPs."

The Internet also managed to reduce his enthusiasm for satellite reception. "Today I rarely do any DXing anymore", admits Jack as he gestures to all the dishes still mounted on his roof. "Only one of them is still connected and working." He's still interested in NASA's satellite broadcast that he regularly receives from AMC-18C (105W).

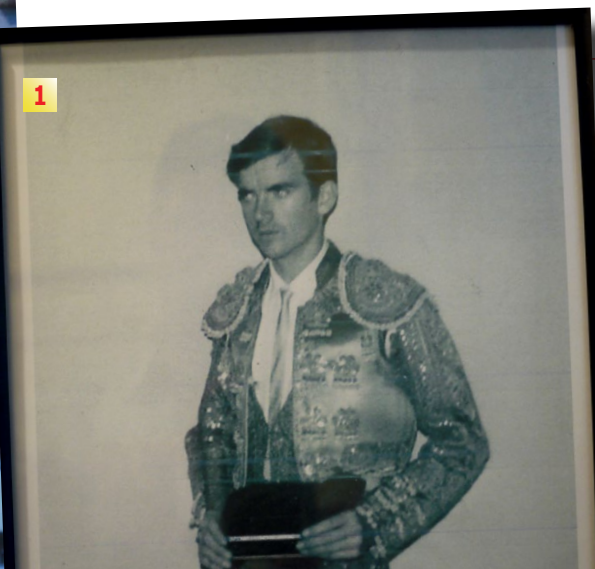
Jack admits that his fascination with satellite reception has faded. "These days my wife, who is originally from Korea, watches her Korean TV channels via the Internet", laments Jack regarding this development. Jack saved many of the satellite magazines from the old days. "Here I have many years worth of TELE-satellite that I regularly bought", explains Jack as he points to the thick stack of TELE-satellite magazines. Today, though, he can read the magazine online.

1. A look at the rack Jack set up in his studio.

2. Still sitting in his living room TV cabinet: one of the first GENERAL INSTRUMENTS satellite receivers that Jack used back in 1978. Underneath are the two receivers that he uses today: a DVB-S2 receiver and a box to receive the Mexican PayTV package. He uses that to keep track of Mexican bullfighting broadcasts.



■ It's not everyday you'd find such an assortment of studio technology in a private home.



1. Who is that? That's right, it's Jack Moran in his younger days when he himself was a Torero.
2. A cover from one of Jack's DVDs on which he recorded bullfights in its entirety from neighboring Tijuana and then sold to others. Unfortunately, this business model doesn't work anymore.
3. Jack saved old TELE-satellite issues in stacks
4. Jack also set up a small camera museum in which rare camera models can be seen.
5. A picture from the old days: Jack's wife is busy cementing in the mast that today carries the 3.0-meter dish.
6. Luo Shigang from Aluosat in China visiting Jack Moran.

