

On the Cover

The two bands with names as well as numbers are the favorites of Brent Lemons, N5TML, of Marlow, Oklahoma. Almost any night you'll find him on "top band," 160 meters, rag-chewing with friends on 1990 kHz; and when 6 meters—the "magic band"—is open, you'll find him there, too.

Brent has been a ham for 11 years, and has enjoyed VHF/UHF single-sideband work almost from the beginning. He's earned VUCC (VHF-UHF Century Club award) on 6, 2, and 432, and counts among his all-time best contacts talking on 2 meters to Cuba, Mexico, and Canada.

You can see Brent's dedication to 6 meters in the photo on the cover, as virtually everything above his main operating desk is for the Magic Band. On the desk (hand-built from oak, by the way), is a Yaesu FT-102 HF transceiver, a Yaesu FT-990, and a stacked pair of ICOM VHF/UHF rigs, the IC-271 and 471. Moving up, there's an ICOM IC-551D (6 meters) and an AEA 6 meter amplifier (he had to go to Canada for that one); and on the shelf above that, a Drake TR-6 (6 meters) with matching speaker and a Dentron Super Super Tuner.

Brent's wife, Stephanie, is also a ham (N5YNR) and is about to celebrate her 10th anniversary as an amateur. Their home in Marlow is about an hour southwest of Oklahoma City, "where the winds blow," says Brent, often over 100 miles per hour.

What's Brent's favorite aspect of amateur radio? "Lots of friends who help with stuff," he says. "It's nice to be able to help somebody and then have them come help you." (Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)