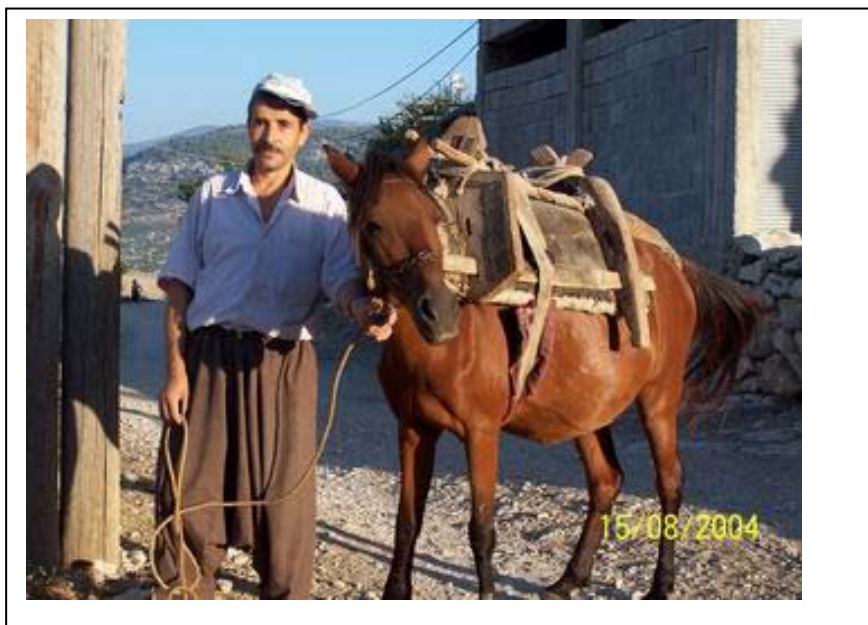




R5 / 145.725 MHz. (TA5KB) repeater is located at a mountain village (Emirler) which is 30 km to the North-East of Tarsus. Emirler is 850 meters above the sea level and the population is abt 250. The RX and TX units are 3 km apart.

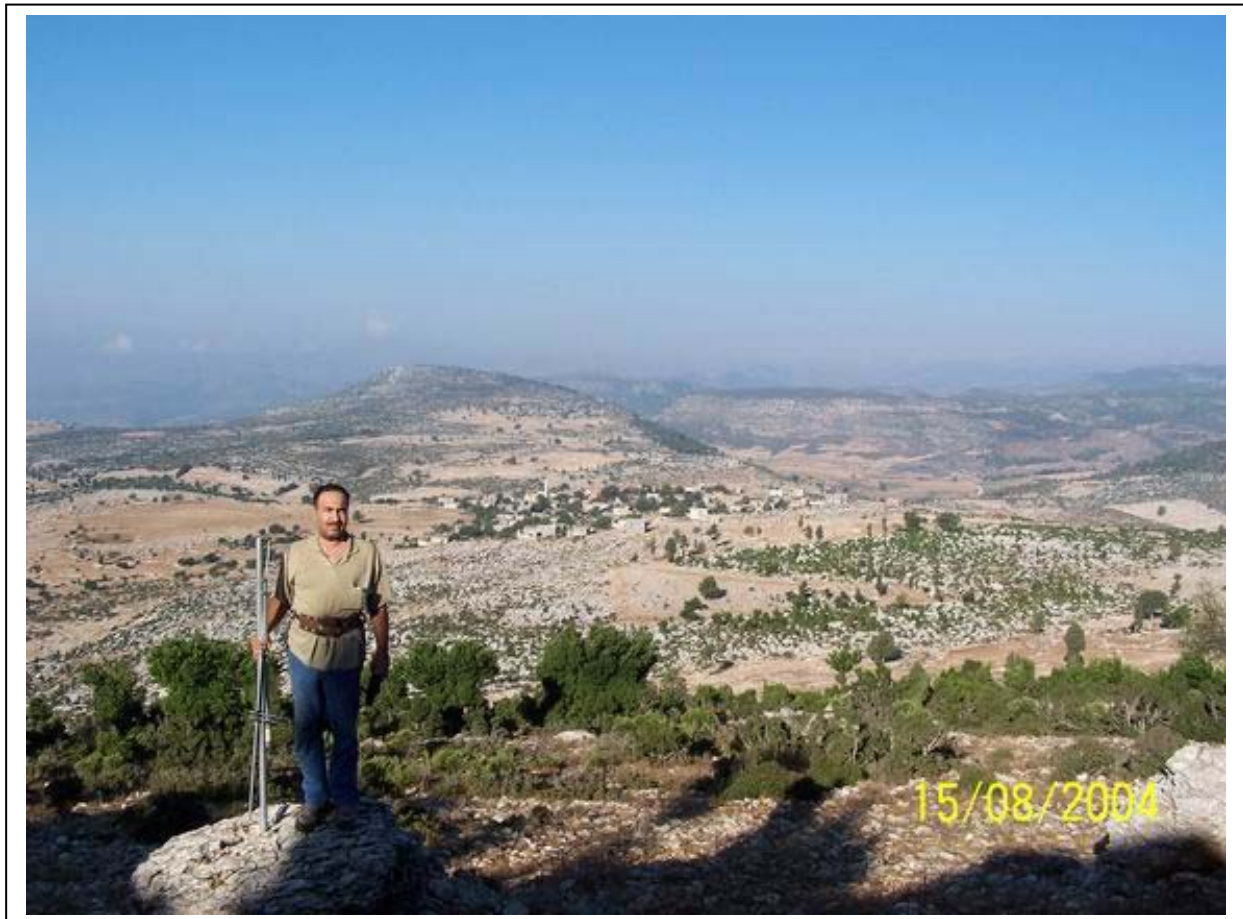
The TX unit is in an old stone house in the village (See picture on the left) The dish antenna is 90 cm in diameter and connected to a microwave receiver. It provides microwave link between the VHF RX and the VHF TX units.



On August the 15, 2004 TA5EL/Cem and TA5A/Ilhan went to Emirler to move the RX unit to a nearby hill, 3km to the East of Emirler. Our bionic transporter and her master KASIM is shown on the left.



Just before hitting the road to the RX site. From left to right: KASIM, TA5EL/CEM and MEHMET. KASIM is holding a UHF antenna. CEM is holding a part of a Cushcraft AR 270B which will be attached to the RX unit of R5 repeater. KASIM is to handcarry a 25 Watts solar panel, a rare and expensive item in Turkey. The solar panel was donated to ARAD last year by TA5EY/Umit.



At the foot of the hill. Emirler is seen to the right of Cem's head. The city of Mersin is to the left of the hill which is above Cem's head. The morning sun is behind the camera.



On top of the hill finally. The tripod mast (ready to be erected) was carried and the concrete base was poured between the rocks by KASIM and MEHMET three weeks ago. Looking South-West at the direction of Mersin and Cyprus. The elevation of the RX site is 997 meters and the length of the mast is 6 meters.



From left to right:
TA5A/Ilhan,
KASIM, and
MEHMET.



The moment of erecting the mast. The hill to the left is called "Haydar tepesi." Beyond Haydar tepesi is the city of Tarsus. (Up)

Cushcraft AR-270B is sitting on top of the mast. Cem is assembling the vertically and horizontally adjustable arm of the solar panel. Mehmet is standing by to hand over the solar panel to Cem. (Left)



CEM and
MEHMET are
working hard to
attach the solar
panel to its X/Y
adjustable arm. ☺



Another view from the RX site, looking South-East at the direction of Adana, Iskenderun, Syria, Lebanon, and Israel. The illegal VHF cordless telephone transmissions on 2m from Lebanon and Syria have signal strengths of 59+20 at the RX site. We are going to suffer from them probably until the end of October or November. Hams from Israel can only access our R5 during periods when there are no cordless telephone activity from Lebanon and/or Syria at our input QRG.. (I wonder if Lebanon and Syria are members of ITU). These cordless telephones are from China. Plus, there are hundreds of pirate 2m radio users in Lebanon unfortunately. I feel sorry for our Lebanese HAM friends. ☹



Almost done. ☺ The 10 GHz microwave transmitter with its horn (20 mW), under the VHF RX box, is temporarily waiting to be attached to its final location under the VHF antenna, to point at the Emirler village. The UHF antenna to the left of the RX box is to serve as an alternate access gate to the system at the times of Lebanese and Syrian interference (from May through October each year) on the VHF input frequency. When you access the system via UHF, the VHF audio input is automatically cutoff. So, the UHF input has priority over the VHF input. Both VHF and UHF receivers have CTCSS decoders set at 88.5 Hz.



On the way back to Emirler from the RX site with happy faces. ☺ From left to right: TA5A/Ilhan, our bionic transporter, and her master KASIM. The final step of this project would be moving the TX unit up on the same hill, 3km to the North of the RX point. By doing this, the poor and the dead areas to the East of this hill will be well covered by the TX antenna. As you probably have seen in the first picture above, the transmitter antenna is physically damaged. You can see the dent in the middle. It needs to be replaced by a better high-gain and low-angle antenna. Of course we need another solar panel, solar battery, and a tripod mast for the TX site on the hill. We are planning to move the TX side on the same hill by next spring in 2005. I was able to key this repeater from Incirlik (60 km distance) after midnight, when there was no interference from Lebanon and Syria, with only 20 mW RF emission from my hand-held radio. ☺ The coverage area includes Susanoglu, KIZKALESİ, Mersin, Tarsus, Yenice, Adana, Karatas, Yumurtalık, Ceyhan, Osmaniye, Kadirli, Kozan, Bahce, Iskenderun, Lebanon, Israel, and Cyprus. The last of the three depends on the conditions of propagation from April through November each year.

Donations are welcome in optimizing this unique amateur radio repeater to serve the area and the amateurs in the neighbouring countries. It can also be accessed via EchoLink, TA5KB-R.

All the best from southern Turkey.
73s de ta5a / Ilhan

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