

## TWO NIGHTS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By Dot Timmerman, AC4HH

'Twas two nights before Christmas, and at the North Pole, everyone was busy.  
So busy, in fact that both Santa and Mrs. Claus were almost dizzy.  
All twelve reindeer calmly stuffed themselves with reindeer food  
and all the Elves inspected the toys and proclaimed they were good.  
Because, you see, Christmas was just two nights away.  
And Santa looked forward to hooking up his sleigh.

He tightly secured two fully charged batteries under the sleigh's seat  
While Mrs. Claus cooked a big pot of chili for them to eat.  
"It is a long, long trip all around the world," she muttered  
"And it is so bitter cold," she hugged herself and shuttered.  
She saw Santa coming and heard him stomp his feet on the deck.  
"I think it's going to snow again," he said, tightening the scarf around his neck.

"Hi, Dear," he said. "I need your help. I can't find one of my Boufangs?"  
"I'll help you", she had learned long ago he was is always losing things.  
"But you have lots of radios? Why so many?" On her fingers she started to  
count.  
"Four base stations, 6 mobiles and about 20 handy-talkies and some antennas to  
mount."

"That's because this year I am giving a radio to each reindeer, so I don't have to shout."

"Besides, they are so cheap now I didn't want to leave any of the reindeer out."

"You look puzzled," he said." And went on to explain his plan of attack.

"A small radio attached to each harness with an extra battery pack.

They will have an earbud in one ear so they can hear me over the wind."

Also, a short vertical antenna, made strong so it won't bend."

So, they went to the workshop where the elves were packing the toys.

Santa praised them for their work. "Such wonderful gifts for the girls and boys."

Sure enough Mrs. Claus found the missing radio. Let's go eat supper," she said.

"I'm ready," Santa replied. "Then we can crawl into bed."

While she set the table, Santa sat in his recliner and started to snore.

He loved all his radios and antennas and had promised not to buy more.

He was too old now to climb his tower; he wasn't fooling himself.

But, not to worry, he thought. He'd just train a nimble elf.

When they awoke it was the day before Christmas; the sun was out bright.

He would finish mounting his rig and be sure it was working just right.

He'd add a magnetic loop so he could talk to his wife, his true love,

By bouncing his HF signal off the Northern Lights above.

The elves were loading the sleigh with hundreds of toy sacks

And the reindeer pranced around showing off the radios on their backs.

After lunch he said, "I'm tired. Let's go take a good nap," and he lay down. They set the alarm and slumber they did—getting up just before sundown. He enjoyed two bowls of chili, some cornbread, and a pecan delight. To Mrs. Claus, he said, "My suit's getting too tight. I'll have to go on a diet." He got in the sleigh with his radio, antenna, GPS and APERS —his very own toys "Turn on your radio so you can read me the names of the good girls and boys."

He kissed Mrs. Clause, told her bye; "See you in 24 hours," he was now ready. Into his mic, Santa said "Ho, Ho, Ho. Here we go! Let's keep it nice and steady. With sleigh bells ringing, they flew through the air with the greatest of ease. Santa had many countries to visit and many children of all ages to please.

Merry Christmas to all of you. This is AC4HH. Over.