

## “Skypper” vs. “Bamby” DXpedition Antenna Review

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We had a great opportunity to try the full wave loop (the "Bamby 11") and the "Skypper Antenna" (11m "spider beam" type) side by side recently. It was really interesting to see the difference! Our QTH was Kökar Island in 212 Åland Island Archipelago. Both antennas were mounted on 8 meter long fishing rods on similar height, about 1/2 L above ground and pointed to south/west for EU e-skip. Saturday night we had weak e-skip barely lifting the meter on the loop but producing up to S2-S5 signals on the Skypper. It was well worth the extra effort bringing and mounting the Skypper as we logged more stations than we would have using the loop. Here are our findings from the antenna comparison;

### Plus and Minuses with the Skypper Antenna

- +++ More gain than Bambi, really helps in low prop
- ++ Front/Back ratio that could come in handy
- ++ Easy to erect (but needs guy wires)
- + Light weight/Easy to transport
- More parts/complicated than Bambi
- Sensitive to wind (needs guy wires and rigid support)



### Plus and Minuses with the Loop antenna

- +++ Very light weight and easy to transport
- +++ Extremely easy to erect
- ++ Requires less height than a Skypper to work low angle DX
- ++ Resistant to heavy wind
- + Almost omni directional, less time spend turning the antenna
- Less gain than Skypper



### Conclusions

Both antennas are good antennas with great performance, but they are different in that they would be optimal in different situations. When choosing antenna for an expedition or a day portable in the field there are several things to consider like portability, functionality and propagation. The Loop might have less gain, but it is an excellent long range DX antenna for expeditions and activations because it has a low vertical "take off" even when used on low heights. The Skypper is a smart solution and should be compared to a 3-element Yagi and therefore has more gain and a front/back ratio. Mounted on 10-11 meters height it should be an excellent long range DX antenna for far away expeditions and on 5-6 meters height it should be good for e-skip range activations.

If you travel really light like 30DX401 Christian on his Pacific Tour, the Bamby is a perfect choice because it is an extremely portable DX antenna, all antenna parts fits into a normal suitcase and only a 8 meter "fishing rod" is carried separately which looks "normal" when passing customs. The Skypper is a little more complicated with more parts to bring and if you plan a far away DX expedition a 12 meter Spiderbeam glassfibre pole will help the skipper to outperform the Bamby. But it will be more parts and weight to carry and a special bag used for fishing rods or roll-up signs is perfect to keep all antenna parts organized and protected.

73 from Kökar Island Chris 212/21AT116 & Patrik 212/21DX139