

# Jiri, the Racer

*Jiri Vanek lives in Jablonec nad Nisou, a Czech town with a population of 50,000. In younger years he used to do race driving – “I even came in third once with my Skoda 130RS in a mountain race,” Jiri proudly remembers. Car mechanic springs to mind as an ideal profession for a race driver, and that’s actually what Jiri has done for a living. He used to spend long hours at the turning lathe and with this technical background it’s only a small step to becoming a satellite enthusiast with a special liking for rather individual solutions. In Jablonec nad Nisou (incidentally, the Czech word jablon means apple tree) Jiri’s house can easily be spotted thanks to the many dishes mounted all over.*

■ Satellite enthusiast Jiri Vanek and his 2.6m dish.

## TELE-satellite World

[www.TELE-satellite.com/...](http://www.TELE-satellite.com/)

Download this report in other languages from the Internet:

Arabic	العربية	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/ara/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/ara/jiri.pdf</a>
Indonesian	Indonesia	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/bid/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/bid/jiri.pdf</a>
Bulgarian	Български	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/bul/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/bul/jiri.pdf</a>
Czech	Česky	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/ces/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/ces/jiri.pdf</a>
German	Deutsch	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/deu/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/deu/jiri.pdf</a>
English	English	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/eng/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/eng/jiri.pdf</a>
Spanish	Español	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/esp/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/esp/jiri.pdf</a>
Farsi	فارسی	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/far/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/far/jiri.pdf</a>
French	Français	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/fra/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/fra/jiri.pdf</a>
Hebrew	עברית	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/heb/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/heb/jiri.pdf</a>
Greek	Ελληνικά	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/hel/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/hel/jiri.pdf</a>
Croatian	Hrvatski	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/hrv/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/hrv/jiri.pdf</a>
Italian	Italiano	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/ita/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/ita/jiri.pdf</a>
Hungarian	Magyar	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/mag/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/mag/jiri.pdf</a>
Mandarin	中文	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/man/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/man/jiri.pdf</a>
Dutch	Nederlands	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/ned/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/ned/jiri.pdf</a>
Polish	Polski	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/pol/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/pol/jiri.pdf</a>
Portuguese	Português	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/por/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/por/jiri.pdf</a>
Romanian	Română	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/rom/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/rom/jiri.pdf</a>
Russian	Русский	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/rus/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/rus/jiri.pdf</a>
Swedish	Svenska	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/sve/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/sve/jiri.pdf</a>
Turkish	Türkçe	<a href="http://www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/tur/jiri.pdf">www.TELE-satellite.com/TELE-satellite-1009/tur/jiri.pdf</a>

Available online starting from 30 July 2010



Jablonec nad Nisou



■ Jiri Vanek in the attic of his house: The difference between all those shiny satellite receivers ("Currently I have 20 of them," he adds up) and rather out-of-fashion CRT TVs could not be more striking. Jiri focuses on technical reception aspects and could not care less about what's on TV.



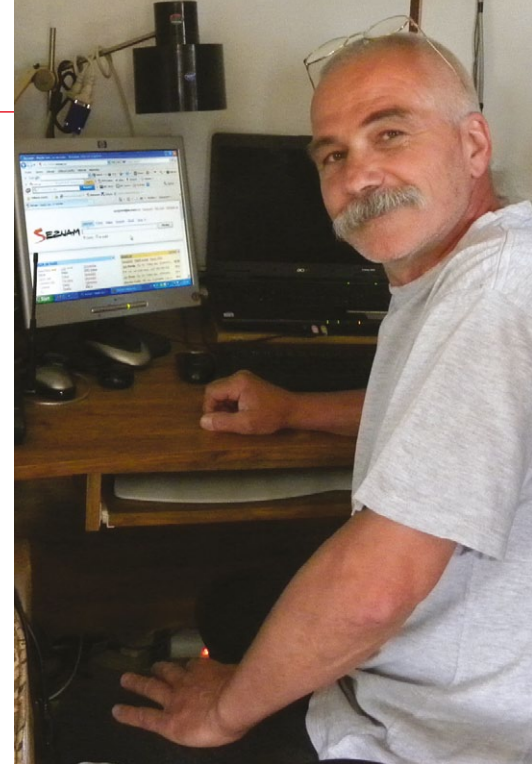
■ Have you ever wondered what the home of a true satellite enthusiast looks like? Here we are at Jiri's house, covered all over with satellite dishes and not minding what his family or neighbours think. On the left (in the garden, waiting for assembly) a 2.5m dish, a 1.8m Ku band dish on the wall, and a smaller 1.3m offset dish below which is also for Ku band reception. The large antenna in the centre is Jiri's main dish and boasts a diameter of 2.6m. It has been used in a professional environment before and therefore even comes with a heating system. This antenna is used for C band reception. On the right there is a 2.4m dish mounted on a 7m pole. Incidentally, all dishes are equipped with actuators and thus can be rotated, with the two large dishes featuring motors for both elevation and azimuth. This way the dishes can be rotated in all directions. "I use the CHAPARRAL Monterey motor control," Jiri explains – a unit that has been out of production for some time now.

The attic of Jiri's house is filled to the brim with receivers of all sorts. While watching a Chilean channel beamed from INTELSAT 805 he tells us of how his hobby gradually turned into passion. "In the year 1986 I set up my first satellite antenna." At the time Europe saw its first satellite channels spring up and Jiri was fascinated by this emerging transmission technology right from the start.

It wasn't long before he added a second satellite antenna (this time with a diameter of 1.4 m) and in 1996 he installed his first C band dish. "That year I spent my vacation in South America and was amazed by all the really huge C band antennas there," Jiri remembers. Back home the first thing he did was get a large C band antenna, of course. When asked about his favourite channels it turns out he doesn't like to watch TV too

much. What sounds odd at first seems to be a common trait of many satellite enthusiasts: It's not what's on TV that is important, but how to master technical challenges and find solutions for tricky reception problems. The journey is rated much higher than the destination, so to speak.

Of course with his technical background and metal-working skills Jiri is in an excellent position for overcoming problems. "I even built a number of polarisers myself," he states with pride and points to his LNB rotation motors. His workshop is a genuine treasure for all kinds of LNBS and polarisers and impressive proof of his long-standing commitment to satellite reception. His passion even goes as far as to offer other satellite DXers help and support in his free time so that their installations can deliver the same results



■ Jiri in front of his PC, updating the website of his DXer club.

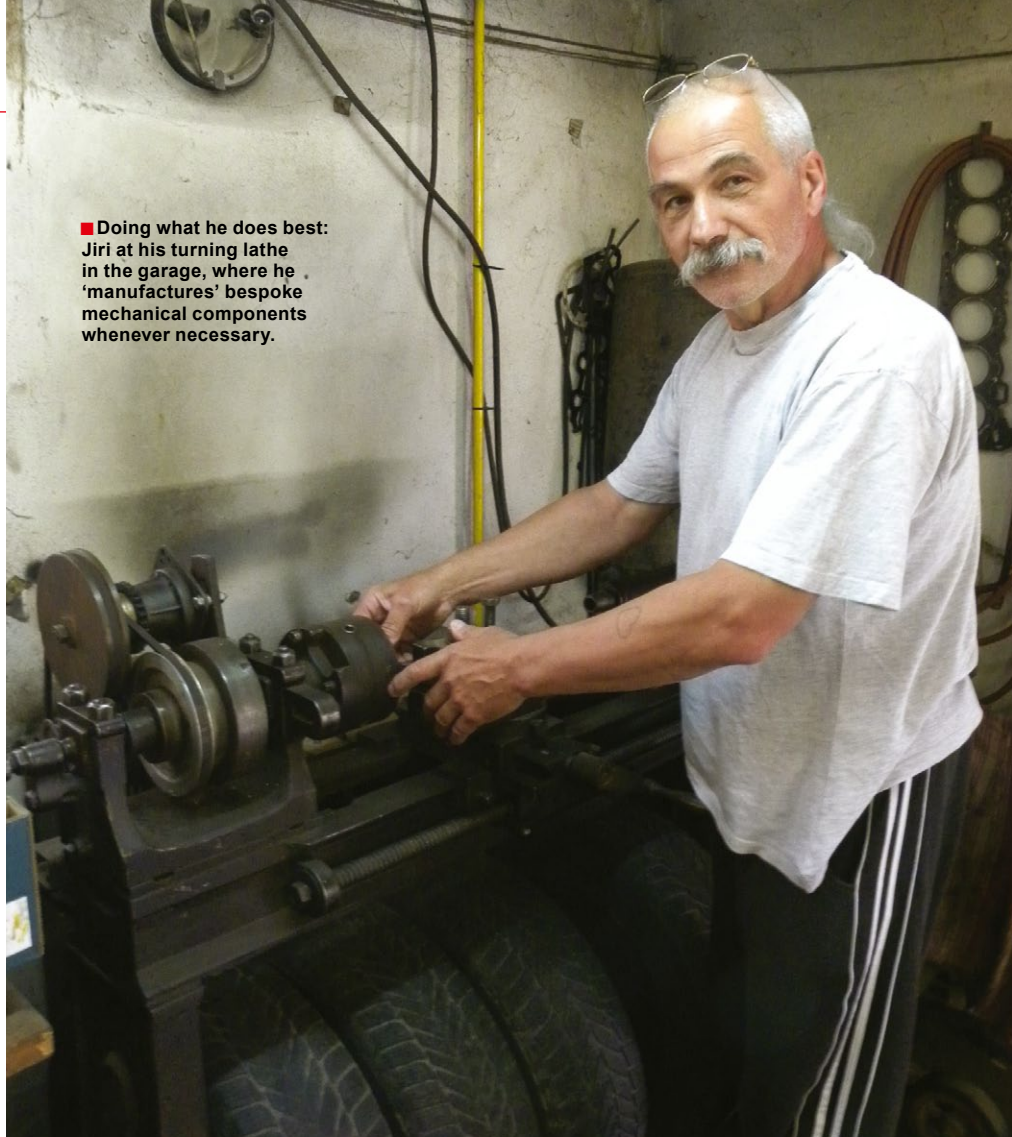
■ The back of the huge 2.6m dish can be seen when looking out of a window. Note the way Jiri solved the problem of pole mounting: He used empty drums which he only filled once the construction was completely set up.



as Jiri's. "Recently I set up a dedicated DXer's club, which currently has 27 members in the Czech Republic and three in Slovakia," Jiri continues. The club's name – "Vanspeed Sat DX Klub" – suits perfectly when we take into account that Jiri also used the name Vanspeed when he was a self-employed car mechanic. "You can see many photos of various satellite antenna installations on our website at <http://vanspeed.myspace.cz>," Jiri goes on and adds that club meetings take place two to three times a year for exchanging opinions and ideas. "We're always happy to welcome any DXer to our meetings, no matter where they come from," Jiri extends an invitation to interested readers.

When asked about his plans for the future Jiri has a surprise in store. He is planning to set up a 6m dish shortly. "I already ordered all components and am currently working on the mast construction." Jiri hopes to be able to receive CHINASAT 9 at 92.2° East with this monster antenna, but that is something that remains to be seen. "Elevation is extremely low, but perhaps it's possible nonetheless," Jiri expresses his hopes.

His house stands on one of the town's hills, so chances are CHINASAT signals will actually make it all the way to Jiri's house – at least in theory. One thing is for sure, though: We'll all keep our fingers crossed.



■ **Doing what he does best:** Jiri at his turning lathe in the garage, where he 'manufactures' bespoke mechanical components whenever necessary.

■ **Proudly made by Jiri:** Two samples of his work – polarizers which rotate the whole LNB. All mechanical components seen here are custom-made by Jiri Vanek. The upper model is for Ku band reception, and the lower model for the C band.

