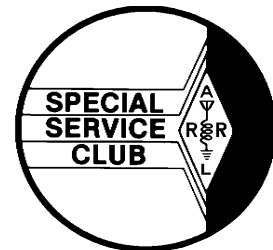


FEEDBACK

FEBRUARY 2009



COMMENTS

The club meeting this month will be the last one at the West Lake Church. In the future we'll be using the Mason Hall across the street from the County Court House. Gary WB8USU was responsible for procuring the use of the Mason building at no cost to the club. Thanks Gary!

SMARS meeting this month will be the last one before the Swapfest and a lot of details need to be worked out. Stephanie needs a lot of help and volunteers aren't showing up to the extent needed. Every single club member should put in some time towards the clubs needs. It may be a quaint idea, but there is more to being a club member than paying dues.

Speaking of paying dues, there are quite a few people who seem to have forgotten to do so.

You'll find an article on building a two meter vertical 5/8th wave antenna in this issue. While it is labeled as a two meter antenna, you'll find no dimensions! That means that you'll need to put your thinking cap on. And when you do, you'll ask yourself about how this identical information can be used for any frequency: six meter, ten meters or ???

Too often, I've seen comments on the web complaining about the ARRL accepting the IBM BPL proposal. Some hams think that the ARRL is against BPL — Tain't so! The ARRL is against those techniques that interfere with others usage and violate the FCCs own regulations.

If you use amateur radio, you're using a hobby that exists because our government as well as many other governments have given spectrum to us. They all recognize the various skills of the amateur population throughout the world. Our government states five expectations of the amateur and we need to do something more than show lip service towards each of these expectations. Dan KB6NU lists these in an article in this paper. Of course you have a greater interest in some more than others, but do something in each.

Read in the paper about the various activities the ARRL is involved in to protect and grow our hobby. Aren't you glad that you are a ARRL member? You are, aren't you?

STRAIGHT TALK

Wow! It sure is cold in Michigan!

We have a new President. For those who didn't vote for him, like me, it's time to give him our support. He is Our President and Commander-In-Chief.

We have a hamfest coming up. When I think about our club members I can see why it was so successful in the past (while I was in Florida.) The problem is we're all getting older: Walter J., Walter W., Louie, Paul, Marion and all those I didn't name need your support. If I can take tickets and work the club table I will be happy. Do what you can and we will have the same success as we have had in the past.

With all the negativity of 2008, I would like to make this year more stress free for all of us. Remember we're always looking for new ideas on how to make our club more interesting so everyone will want to participate in all our activities.

Let's think before we speak and work for the betterment of all. Support all club activities and bring along a friend. Pass on new and old ideas that will make our club more enjoyable and hopefully make it grow.

If we do things wrong, let your board know after the meeting, we can all learn. As your president for this year, I need your help and I will try to do my best for all of you.

Jerald Longman W8FOK

MARSHALL HAMFEST

Stephanie tells us that the table sales are coming along a little slower than in previous years. She still needs volunteers for setting up, tearing down, working the call-in table and manning the various entrances to the school as well as ticket sellers.

GUEST OF THE MONTH

Ned, WB4BKO, informs us that Joe Medsker, K8LKC, will present his spark gap program during the February SMARS meeting.



THE FIVE "PRINCIPLES" OF HAM RADIO

Whenever anyone starts talking about the purpose of ham radio, I refer them to Part 97, the rules which govern amateur radio. You can find Part 97 at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/news/part97/>

Part 97.1 reads:

97.1 Basis and purpose.

The rules and regulations in this Part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

- (a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
- (b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.
- (c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art.
- (d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.
- (e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill.

I think this pretty much says it all.

73!

Dan KB6NU

RILEY'S REPLACEMENT

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service.

A 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law, Smith began her legal career with the FCC, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith is currently licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

FCC REPORTS DECLINE IN BPL CUSTOMERS

On January 16, 2009, the Federal Communications Commission released data, as of December 31, 2007, on the services used for high-speed Internet access in the United States. According to the data collected by the FCC, as of that date there were 121.2 million high-speed lines (including wireless), a 20 percent increase in just six months.

In sharp contrast to the rapid growth in mobile wireless, cable modem, ADSL and fiber as delivery mechanisms to subscribers, Broadband over Power Line (BPL) utilization apparently declined during the period.

According to the FCC figures, the category "Power Line and Other" dropped from 5420 lines in June 2007 to just 5274 six months later. It is not known how many of these are "Power Line" and how many are "Other."

"Despite the enormous and unwarranted hype given to BPL by the FCC under Chairmen Powell and Martin, the message from the marketplace is clear: BPL is going nowhere as a means of delivering broadband connectivity to consumers," observed ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Still, the FCC has unfinished business with respect to BPL. It has been nine months since the federal Court of Appeals ordered the Commission to correct the errors it committed in adopting rules that inadequately protect licensed radio services from BPL interference <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>>, yet the FCC has made no effort to comply. With the change at the FCC helm that is about to take place, we hope the foot-dragging will come to an end and the Commission will fulfill its obligations to the Court as well as to its licensees."

The 27-page FCC report may be found at on the FCC's Web site <http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-87962A1.pdf>.

"ATOMIC" CLOCK

Clocks of the 24-hour variety are popular gifts for hams and one of the most accurate clocks is the type synced to the VLF signals of WWVB. Considering that the wavelength of a 60 kHz signal is 5000 meters, how do they do it? Take a tour of the station online and marvel that those tiny clocks hear the signal so well!

<http://tf.nist.gov/stations/radioclocks.htm>

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MICHIGAN PRB-1 STATUS

The Michigan ARRL has organized members to pursue the adoption of the PRB-1 by the State of Michigan. The committee listed below will head up efforts to this goal and all amateurs, ARRL members or not, are encouraged to participate. Bobby Corr, the committee Chairman, would appreciate any volunteers willing to aid in this project. Let him know if you are willing. Sign up on www.prb1michigan.org

[prb1michigan.org](http://www.prb1michigan.org)

MICHIGAN ARRL PRB-1 COMMITTEE

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A CELL PHONE IS NOT AMATEUR RADIO

On January 30, at the instruction of the Board of Directors at its January 2009 meeting, the ARRL Executive Committee adopted a policy statement on mobile Amateur Radio operations. The statement addresses the growing number of proposed state and local laws and ordinances regulating the use of cellular telephone and text messaging, inadvertently affecting Amateur Radio mobile communications.

In its statement, the Executive Committee urges state and municipal legislators to limit the scope of their proposals, limiting them to devices such as full duplex wireless telephones and related hand-held or portable equipment. Alternately, it suggests that licensed Amateur Radio operation be listed specifically as an exclusion to the proposed regulations.

"At the start of each new session, you see a flurry of this type of proposal in state legislatures across the country," said ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND.

As of February 1, 2009, Henderson said that the ARRL is aware of proposals in 11 states: Georgia, Hawaii Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Montana, Texas, Utah, Virginia and Wyoming, as well as several local city or town proposals.

"These proposals are usually intended to regulate cellular telephone and text messaging by drivers as a matter of safety but, when they are written in very broad terms, can include Amateur Radio mobile operations in the 'net' they cast," Henderson continued. "The Executive Committee's policy statement gives a good, concise background of the role the Amateur Service plays in public safety and service communications. It also highlights the differences between communications conducted by cellular telephone and those using Amateur Radio. Finally, the statement offers some suggested statutory language for state motor vehicle codes which would protect Amateur Radio mobile operation."

The ARRL recognizes that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents. The policy statement raises the fact that cell phones utilize full duplex communications - where the user is talking and listening simultaneously. The Executive Committee statement says "Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than listening to a broadcast radio, CD or MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile, private land mobile or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect."

The ARRL Policy Statement also recognizes the responsibility of the amateur community to conduct its activities in a manner that does not create unsafe operation of their motor vehicle. "Safety has to be a top concern at all times," Henderson concluded.

LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD

The LoTW is a repository of digitally-signed log data uploaded by individual participants. The system compares the log data to all other logs to find matches (QSLs). These matches can be used as confirmation of a contact for award credit.

Users can also use LoTW to track awards, check DXCC records, and find QSLs and QSOs. Many of today's popular computer logging software programs interact with LoTW providing users with an interface to LoTW from within the logging program. LoTW works with Windows, Mac and Linux operating systems. The software is free to download and there is no charge for uploading data or viewing records.

ARRL LEGISLATIVE OBJECTIVES

Legislative Objectives: The Board voted to approve five legislative objectives for the 111th Congress:

Objective #1: The ARRL seeks legislation to extend the requirement for "reasonable accommodation" of Amateur Radio station antennas (a requirement that now applies to state and local regulations) to all forms of land use regulation.

Objective #2: The ARRL opposes legislation that encourages the deployment of RF technologies such as broadband over power line (BPL) systems unless adequate safeguards against interference to licensed radiocommunication services are included in the legislation.

Objective #3: The ARRL opposes legislation that would diminish the rights of federal licensees in favor of unlicensed emitters, especially unintentional emitters.

Objective #4: The ARRL seeks recognition of the unique resources, capabilities and expertise of the Amateur Radio Service in any legislation addressing communications issues related to emergencies, disasters, or homeland security.

Objective #5: The ARRL supports the complementary legislative objectives of other radiocommunication services, particularly the public safety and scientific services that require spectrum access and protection from interference for noncommercial purposes that benefit the public.

LOTW REACHES NEW MILESTONE: 200 MILLION QSOS

On January 16, Vic Kean Jr, K1LT, of Carroll, Ohio, uploaded four years' worth of logs -- about 25,000 QSOs -- to ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw>>. Somewhere in that batch, the LoTW counter crossed the 2 million mark. To celebrate Kean's submission of the 200 millionth QSO, the ARRL has awarded him lifetime free LoTW credits and free ARRL Awards as he qualifies for them.

"When I uploaded all of my contest logs since moving to my current location," Kean said, "I was really surprised at the number of the contacts that were immediately confirmed -- about 30 percent -- especially DXpeditions. I've been very laggard about responding to QSLs that I get. The last batch I did was by printing some card stock on a laser printer."

Kean, who mainly enjoys operating CW on 160 meters, said that he enjoys what he calls "success at contesting through technological superiority," as opposed to superior operating ability. "In other words," he said, "I work at improving my station with technology, and then test those improvements in a contest. I attempt to achieve awards by trying to get into one of the 'Top 10 boxes' in the contest results. Somewhere I have a Worked All States certificate from my youthful days. I worked about 160 countries but never got around to submitting any cards for DXCC." Kean said that he still intends to try and get at least one QSL card from every country.

"Even though we knew that Logbook of The World would explode in its popularity, 201 million QSOs in roughly the first five years of its existence show that LoTW's concept and ideas have worked beyond our expectations," said ARRL Membership and Volunteer Programs Department Manager Dave Patton, NN1N. "Vic's log contributes not only to the bottom line, but to the overall embrace of the technology and further bolsters our commitment to continue to improve and expand the system."

Kean said that he believes Amateur Radio will certainly continue to change as time goes on, "but I don't expect the hobby to ever completely go away. With cognitive radio coming, there is plenty of opportunity to experiment, even by just writing software. In the long run, I think the rules of spectrum allocation will change, but hopefully the change will benefit people in general, rather than corporations. If so, there will still be a role for communications experimenters. Man versus the ionosphere will still be interesting, no matter what the spectrum rules are."

When asked if he would encourage other hams to try Logbook of The World, Kean was enthusiastic: "If someone asked me about Logbook, I would tell them, 'Don't worry about it. Logbook of The World works, and it seems to be enjoying much greater popularity than you know.' At least, that's what I just found out!"

DAYTON TRIP BY BUS

2nd Annual Dayton Hamvention Excursion

Friday, May 15, 2009

Sponsored by the Kalamazoo SMART Club

Spend a day at the Dayton Hamvention in 2009 and enjoy the entire experience:

no driving worries
no parking inconveniences
no ticket lines
no hauling your new treasures long distances
lots of fun and fellowship

Details

Price: \$100.00 per person (if we get at least 35 participants; \$10 extra if we don't)

Payment details

\$20.00 down payment to reserve your spot (payable any time, non-refundable) Remainder of payment due by April 15, 2009

All payments are non-refundable but may be transferred to another ham

In the event of the cancellation of the trip, all payments will be refunded.

Make checks payable to SMART and send to:

Dennis Boersema
7820 N. 14th St.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Please include contact information (including e-mail address) with your payment

Questions? Contact - Dennis Boersema
269-720-2520
dboersema1@charter.net

Times (approx):

Leave Kalamazoo at 4:00 am
Pickup in Battle Creek (if required) at 4:30 am

Arrive in Dayton at 8:00 am
Leave Dayton at 5:00 pm

Arrive back in Kalamazoo at 10:00 pm

Included:

Luxury motor coach travel to and from Dayton
Continental breakfast on bus
Door-side drop off and pick up in Dayton
Hamvention tickets
Opportunities to place your purchases on the bus
Dinner on the return trip

MARCH OF DIMES

April 18, 2009
Battle Creek Health Systems
300 North Ave.
Battle Creek, MI 49017

Walk Distance: 6 miles
Registration Time: 8:00 AM
Start Time: 9:00 AM
Chapter: Kalamazoo Division
Phone #: (269) 343-5586

TRIPLE PLAY

With the advent of the ARRL's Triple Play Award <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/05/10490/>>, on-air participation has reached a level of excitement not seen in recent years. This new, exciting award is available to all amateurs who confirm contacts with each of the 50 states using three modes for each state: CW, phone and RTTY/digital. All 150 contacts must be made on or after the January 1, 2009 and must be confirmed via Logbook of The World (LoTW) <<http://www.arrl.org/lotw/>>. All bands -- with the exception of 60 meters -- may be used in pursuit of the Triple Play Award.

AND WE HAVE A WINNER

On Thursday, January 15, ARRL officials confirmed that David J. Strout Sr, W2YC, of Williamstown, New Jersey, is the recipient of the very first Triple Play Award <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/12/05/10490/>>. "Strout received the final needed confirmation -- Hawaii on phone -- just at 2004 UTC on January 15," said ARRL Information Technology Manager Jon Bloom, KE3Z. "He applied for the award at 2007 UTC, and it was issued by the Awards Branch at about 2130 UTC."

ARES / RACES Report for January 2009 in Calhoun County

RACES / Skywarn Nets and Training

8 Skywarn Training Nets 1hr each @ 130 People = 130hrs

Public Service Events

Total Public Service Events, 0 People 0hrs

Administration Hours, Total for Jan. Total = 15hrs

Emergency Operations Total=0hrs

Travel Hours for Jan. Total = 5hrs

Expenses- Out of Pocket Total = \$125.00

Travel Miles for Jan. Total 100 Miles

Members 34

Dave Smith
KC8COT
E-12
City of Battle Creek and Calhoun County
RACES, Emergency Coordinator

SKYWARN TRAINING DATE

Calhoun March 28th, 2009
9:00 AM - Noon Lakeview Middle School
300 South 28th Street, Battle Creek, MI
James Zoss (269) 966-3550
jmzoss@ci.battle-creek.mi.us

ARE YOU CLEAR?

By Abe Abrczinskas ,W8HVG

While talking on ham radio, when you sign clear from a conversation, are you really clear or do you keep on talking? Do you keep making comments, asking questions, signing clear again, etc? Then you were not really clear!

Let's discuss this subject further. Why do we sign clear while talking on ham radio? Here are some answers to consider:

1.We are done, finished with our conversation, don't have anything more to say or add, have to turn off the radio, go into the store, go to the bathroom, destined, in the driveway, or don't like the person who just joined in the conversation.

2.To be courteous and let the people listening know that we are finished and won't be back the next over.

3.To be efficient in our communications because we are hams.

In working CW, a signing clear indication of SK is usually given before the call sign, and if you really want to sign clear leaving the air, a CL would be sent after the call sign. Sometimes a Q-signal is given such as QRT, which means, "shall I stop sending, or I am stopping sending." They all have to do with "signing clear."

It's interesting to note that there are no apparent FCC rules specifically governing signing clear, only general operating standards and identifying your station seem to pertain.

Specifically, FCC Part 97.101 General Standards, subparagraph (a), says In all respects not specifically covered by FCC Rules each amateur station must be operated in accordance with good engineering and good amateur practice, and FCC Part 97.117 Station Identification, subparagraph (a), says, Each amateur station, except a space station or telecommand station, must transmit its assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every ten minutes during a communication, for the purpose of clearly making the source of the transmissions from the station known to those receiving the transmissions.

Ah ha! There it is in Part 97.117 Station Identification! It says that you must say your call sign at the end of each communication (QSO), for the purpose of clearly making the source of the transmissions from your station known to those receiving the transmissions. That is signing clear (or clearly signing)!

Now, how do hams do that? Operation on the HF bands is a little different than operating on repeaters. On HF phone hams simply say the word clear after their call, or just say their call sign with an inflection after mentioning

that they are leaving, going for a cup of coffee, going to do something else, or going to the bath room. On HF CW, they usually do it the "old way" by sending an SK or CL with their call.

Now on repeaters, it's very different and it seems to relate to whether the ham is new and been properly "Elmered" in how to sign clear, or quite possibly, the new ham brings a method from their days of CB operation, or they just pick it up by listening. Even old experienced hams have different ways to signing clear.

Below are some typical signing clear comments usually heard on repeaters. They are in addition to the usual W8--- signing clear, or W8--- clear!

- 1.W8--- over, off, and clear (that's clear!).
- 2.W8--- clearing out.
- 3.W8--- clearing the frequency.
- 4.W8--- standing on the side.
- 5.W8--- on the side and listening.
- 6.W8--- gonna back'em on outa here!
- 7.W8--- out!
- 8.W8--- 73's, or seven thirds (yuk).
- 9.W8--- all the numbers to you!
- 10.W8--- clear but monitoring.
- 11.W8--- clear but listening.
- 12.W8--- listening out.
- 13.W8--- listening but I won't be back.
- 14.W8--- in the driveway.
- 15.W8--- destined.
- 16.W8--- going in the store, work, house, etc.
- 17.W8--- going for coffee!
- 18.W8--- goin' to lunch!
- 19.W8--- going potty!
- 20.W8--- throwin' the big switch!
- 21.W8--- pullin' the battery clip!
- 22.W8--- off the key!

Now that you are done smiling, it's not what we say when we sign clear, or how we sign clear, it's what we do after signing clear! Don't lack consideration for others, and only be concerned about yourself by signing clear and not turning it over to someone. Make it clear who is to transmit next (if there is more than one person left). It maintains communications efficiency and prevents confusion as to who should talk next, and it eliminates doubling.

And if you agree with all that, during a conversation (QSO) involving more than to people, turn it over to someone at the end of each transmission who is expected to transmit next. Are you clear?

SMARS Club Meeting

January 15, 2009

Called To Order: 7:05 pm

Officers Present: Jerry W8FOK, Ned WB4BKO, Don W8RVT, John KC8WMM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation: Bob Lumbert KB8ZES, Station Engineer for WGVU, discussed the transition to Digital TV.

Secretary's Report: approved as published in Feedback.

Treasurer's Report: approved as published in Feedback.

Committee Reports:

Hamfest: 77 tables and 27 chairs are now reserved. Bob has a signup sheet to be passed at the next Club meeting. The March Club meeting is after the Hamfest.

ARES/RACES: Annual March of Dimes event is the 3rd Saturday in April. It is the biggest RACES event of the year. Jerry continues to try and bring back members of RACES to rejoin the Club. There was a suggestion to place an alert on the SMARS 2-meter repeater when there was a weather alert, informing people to switch to the 12 repeater.

Field Day: Business as usual so far. Trailer Captains have been selected. Some decision needs to be made about the food, and if Lou is willing to take care of it this year.

Technical Engineer: The 440 repeater is putting out a stronger signal. Don was against adding a PL tone to the repeater, but had to because of interference.

Old Business:

Bob stated the Riverside School could be used by the Club at no cost except during the summer. The Masonic Lodge could also be used at no charge. The board will meet at the Lodge to see if it would be suitable.

New Business:

Russ has been nominated for the position of Past President. He will serve as a member at large.

Prizes at next years Christmas Party ok'd as discussed at the last board meeting.

VE Testing is now \$15 with \$6 going to pay Club expenses. Gary is updating the tests and forms.

The discussion about the Club's insurance and what was covered was tabled.

Adjourned: 9:14pm

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson KC8WMM
SMARS Secretary

SMARS Board Meeting

February 2, 2009

Called to Order: 7:06pm

Officers Present: Jerry W8FOK Ned WB4BKO Don W8RVT John KC8WMM

Others Present: Bob KC8PRL Stephanie W8AEZ Marion WA8MFL

Topics Discussed:

Field Day: Construction at airport is at Duncan's. The Club site is not affected. Hippo will probably not be there. Jerry is going try to bring back people who have left the Club. The Georges are OK with being Band Captains and are working on building a team. The food situation was tabled for now.

Hamfest. Stephanie is going to mass e-mail vendors who have not made their reservations. Priority is going to vendors who have already paid. There may be some scouts available to help vendors. Possible solutions to the door security problem were discussed.

Severe weather training is scheduled for March 28 at the Lakeview Middle School Auditorium.

VE Testing in February is going to be at the Masonic Lodge.

Club meetings starting in March will be at the Masonic Lodge.

Out of Town guest speakers will be treated to dinner.

The 220 repeater needs a new module. Cost is \$50. Don is looking at potential replacement antennas if the one at the 2 meter repeater site cannot be repaired.

The next board meeting will be at the Masonic Lodge on March 2 at 6pm.

The current equipment insurance has lapsed. SMARS gear needs to be inventoried. ARRL insurance options need to be explored.

Adjourned: 8:25pm

Respectfully Submitted,
John Davidson KC8WMM
SMARS Secretary

TECHNICAL STUFF

A concise answer to the question, "Why choose a Pi, T, or L-network for impedance matching?" was given by Joe W3JDR. "The L network is the lowest Q configuration that can be constructed for a given set of terminating impedances. Specify the terminating impedances and a frequency, and the Q is pre-ordained and unchangeable, but bandwidth is the maximum obtainable and the loss is the lowest achievable (although) it only transforms impedances in one direction. On the other hand, with the PI or the T, by varying the component values, you can theoretically match anything to anything. This is done by transforming the input impedance to an "intermediate" impedance and then transforming again to the output impedance. This process gives you complete control of all network parameters, including the Q. The higher the Q of your matching network, the sharper the frequency response but the higher the insertion loss."

Lifted from the ARRL contest bulletin.

HOW TO BUILD A 5/8 WAVE 2 METER ANTENNA

(and why it works)

If you had a quarter wave vertical radiator, you would need quarter wave radials (or longer). If you add a half wave section to it, giving you 6/8 ($1/2 + 1/4$) wave vertical, the same applies except you will get some 'nasty' high angle lobes. Cutting off that 1/8 wave and replacing it with a loading coil will almost remove those high angle lobes and give you a gain of close to 3 db.

What you effectively have then is a vertical double extended zepp (two 1/2 waves in phase with increased center spacing to increase the gain). The missing half can be viewed as an inverted image in your ground plane.

You can helically wind it on your fiberglass rod but make the physical length no more than 5/8 wave long. The loading coil then becomes integrated into the antenna.

You will need to experiment (or borrow some impedance measuring equipment) with the number of turns and turn spacing until a resistive base impedance close to 50 ohms is found.

If you only use a small number of radials (say 4) you may experience lowered gain and a split vertical lobe pattern. If you use a large enough pizza or similar tray no radials will be required.

A design by Tim VK3IM

UVZ GIVE AWAY

I have older CQ & QST mags I need to get rid of...
CQ = Feb 1995 thru Feb 2005 (Ten Years)
QST = Feb 1996 thru Feb 2004 (8 Years)
Free for pickup at 271 Parkshore, BC.
Call in advance @ 965-0463.
George W8UVZ

INFORMATION EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

Blood Clots/Stroke
They Now Have a Fourth Indicator, the Tongue

STROKE: Remember the 1st Three Letters....S.T.R.

STROKE IDENTIFICATION

It only takes a minute to read this...

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

RECOGNIZING A STROKE

Thank God for the sense to remember the '3' steps,
STR. Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognize the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

S *Ask the individual to SMILE.

T *Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE (Coherently) (i.e. It is sunny out today)

R *Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS. If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call emergency number immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

New Sign of a Stroke ----- Stick out Your Tongue

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue.. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

ECHOLINKS

January was a little less busy with Echolink on the 220 repeater with 138 connections. Via Echolink, the repeater was connected to the Upper Peninsula Net which meets Sundays at 8:00pm on the *MICHIGAN*CONFERENCE. It makes for some interesting listening as there have been check-ins from around the world including Japan, Australia and Europe. Net control usually has around 75 stations checking in.

January log can be viewed at w8df.com.

73 Don W8RVT

Income and Expense Statement

1/1/09 Through 1/31/09

SWAPFEST CALENDAR

Category Description	1/1/09- 1/31/09
INCOME	
Dues	84.00
Hamfest Inc:	
Chairs	19.00
Tables	224.00
Tickets	110.00
	353.00
TOTAL Hamfest Inc	353.00
TOTAL INCOME	437.00
EXPENSES	
Administration:	
Postage	8.40
Supplies	31.79
	40.19
TOTAL Administration	40.19
Feedback:	
Postage	8.40
Printing	63.48
	71.88
TOTAL Feedback	71.88
Meetings:	
Refreshments	17.26
	17.26
TOTAL Meetings	17.26
TOTAL EXPENSES	129.33
TOTAL INCOME - EXPENSES	307.67

Feb 14 Traverse City MI
30th Annual Swap & Shop Cherryland Amateur Radio Club
Immaculate Conception Elementary School 218 Vine St
Talk-In 146.46 jjnovak@charter.net

Feb 15 Livonia MI
Swap and Shop Livonia Amateur Radio Club
Civic Center Seniors Center 15218 Farmington Rd
Talk-In 145.35 (100 Hz) w8gkh@arri.net

Mar 14 Marshall MI
49th Annual Michigan Crossroads Hamfest
Southern Michigan ARS & Marshall HS Industrial Arts Club
Marshall High School 701 North Marshall Street
Talk-In 146.660 Repeater and 146.52 Simplex
Daffne25@yahoo.com

Mar 15 Maumee OH
Hamfest and Computer Fair Toledo Mobile Radio Association
Lucas Conty Recreation Center 2901 Key Street
Talk-In 147.27 brian.harrington@utoledo.edu

MAGAZINES ON LINE

WorldRadio magazine is now on-line in PDF format. WorldRadio readers will feel right at home, with many of the same columnists now in electronic format. More Web publishing is happening--if you haven't seen the new on-line HAM-MAG, give it a try! Subscriptions are free and the first couple of issues have been entertaining, with a nice combination of short articles on a variety of subjects, including operating and things to build. Merci beaucoup to both CQ and HAM-MAG!

Lifted from the ARRL Contest bulletin.

Balance Sheet

As of 1/31/09

Acct	1/31/09 Balance
ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Checking	1,284.67
	1,284.67
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	1,284.67
Other Assets	
PettyCash	91.60
S1 Primary Share	12.90
	104.50
TOTAL Other Assets	104.50
TOTAL ASSETS	1,389.17
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
LIABILITIES	0.00
EQUITY	1,389.17
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,389.17

SERVICE

I have often been confused when I heard these terms with reference to the word 'service'.

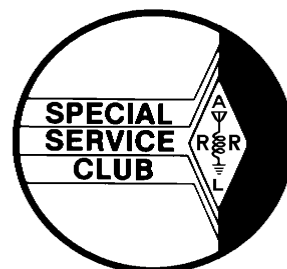
Internal Revenue 'Service'
U.S. Postal 'Service'
Telephone 'Service'
Cable TV 'Service'
Civil 'Service'
State, City, County & Public 'Service'
Customer 'Service'

This is not what I thought 'service' meant. But today, I overheard two farmers talking, and one of them said he had hired a bull to 'service' a few cows. BAM!!! It all came into focus. Now I understand what all those 'service' agencies are doing to us.

Now you are as enlightened as I am.

SOUTHERN MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

FEEDBACK



FEBRUARY 2009

SMARS
P.O. BOX 934
BATTLE CREEK MI 49016

FIRST CLASS MAIL



SMARS NETS

Before Lunch Bunch
Monday-Friday 11:30 A.M.
146.66

Sunday Evening 8:00 P.M.
146.66

Monday 7:30 P.M.
224.24

Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
443.95

Wednesday 8:00 P.M.
28.365

Saturday 8:00 P.M.
443.95

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN.NET
Monday 7:00 P.M. 147.12

ACTIVITY CALENDAR

HAMFEST FEB 14 TRAVERSE CITY
HAMFEST FEB 15 LIVONIA
THIS MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING FEB 19
SMARS BOARD MAR 2 (6:00 p.m.)
SMARS BREAKFAST MAR 7
B4LUNCH BUNCH LUNCH MAR 12
HAMFEST MARSHALL MAR 14
HAMFEST MAUMEE MAR 15
NEXT MONTH SMARS CLUB MEETING MAR 19