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President: Al, VE3TET
Vice-President: Johan, VA3JBO

Secretary: Bob, VE3IXX

Treasurer: Reg, VE3RVH

Trustee: open

QSL Manager and Lighthouse: Bill, VE3WBJ

Repeater manager and maintenance person:
Carl, VE3FEF

Website Admin: Johan, VA3JBO

Here's a vehicle for a hard-working ham!!



SUMMER PORTABLE

By Bob Koechl VE3IXX

Summer is a great time to be running hf portable. It provides opportunities to test out different portable antennas. It is good practice in trouble shooting problems, often with limited resources available. In all, it is an exercise in setting up an emergency station.

Because I help out running the 8 to 9 am Saturday ONTARS net, I like to test out my abilities in setting up an 80 meter station. In most cases, a wire over a couple of trees works well. However, every location offers different challenges and different antenna configurations. As always, some work better than others.

So when I visited my sister-in-law in Orillia, I took along an antenna I had built from an old QST article. The antenna has one centre insulator with an SO239 connector for a coax cable. Each leg is a long wire marked at each foot with a black magic marker line. At five foot intervals it is marked with black electric tape and a green electric tape at ten foot intervals. ONTARS runs on 3.755 MHz requiring a dipole length of $468/3.755$ for approximately one hundred and twenty-five and a half feet. This means each leg needs to be just over sixty-two feet. The remaining length of the wire on each leg is left coiled up on the



spool. This effectively blocks off the signal with a high impedance.

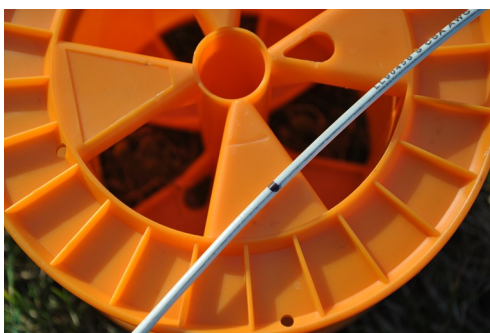
At the Orillia location, there was one large tree near a garden shed. This then became the centre for an inverted V and the shed became my ham shack. Now, the standard method I have to access a high tree is to throw a rope with a heavy weight as high up as I can.



My nephew, Jim, stringing up a rope to pull up the centre of the dipole.



The spool coiled dipole above. Shown below are the markings to indicate the wire lengths.



However, in this particular situation, I was in luck. My forty year old nephew happened to be there. He was shortly beginning a new job with a mining company on Baffin Island (yes, you heard right!!!). He was quite excited about helping to set up my station. In fact he was very interested in learning more about amateur radio as we worked together. Jim climbed up the tree and got the centre close to forty feet high.

Next we measured out each leg and tied these coils off. A quick test through the antenna tuner, and we had an almost 1:1 swr. Jim watched enthralled as I talked with check-ins from all over Ontario. But afterwards, he

was even more impressed when I switched bands and made contacts with stations in Russia, Bulgaria, Norway and Croatia, all in short order. The bands were wide open and the antenna worked beyond expectations.

I learned later from my sister-in-law that Jim had checked out the course material for a Basic Licence and had even booked a time with an Orillia examiner to take the test some time after his return from Baffin Island.

It was a very productive visit overall. In a future article I hope to write about my portable experiences at my daughter's home in Barrys Bay, Ontario. I tried out a different an-



Pictured above is one leg of the antenna from the coiled end to the centre of the dipole up in the tree.. To the right is the makeshift ham shack just inside the garden shed.

tenna on that occasion and this time things did not run so smoothly. In fact I had a real test of my problem solving skills.

73 until then!

Bob VE3IXX



HAM RADIO— TRUE STORIES

Bill Graham VE3ETK sent me this internet site http://members.tripod.com/smith_family6/id29.htm to find true stories where ham radio really made a difference. The latest issue of TCA just reported the story about how amateur radio was a life saver during the recent floods in Alberta. This has kept amateur radio in the public eye. However, the following older story from Bermuda in the aftermath of the 2003 Hurricane Fabian caught my eye. It is a report given by Tony Siese VP9HK.

Damage Assessment on Bermuda in wake of Hurricane Fabian

Submitted by Hurricane Watch Net Member

and resident of Bermuda, Tony Siese - VP9HK

(09/06/03)

left the EMO (Emergency Management Office) at 07:00Z this morning having been there since 12:00Z yesterday. The east end of the island appeared to suffer the most damage with a number of roofs off. The causeway wall was damaged and is down due to pounding waves. There are a few gaps in the causeway which should be repaired by 15.00Z today. The roads have been cleared of debris and most are open to one way traffic at least. Emergency vehicles can get around the island.

There was a post hurricane meeting of the EMO at 13:00Z and there will be a follow up at 20:00Z. Emergency services are being taken care of as a first priority. The roof of the Police Station in St Georges went, the one in Somerset lost part of its roof and the Hamilton Station also lost part of its' roof. The Admin floor of the hospital, which is the fifth floor, was damaged. Electricity has been lost for some 25,000 homes and poles have to be replaced. A full assessment is being carried out as I write. Tomorrow a decision will be made on whether Government offices will be open on Monday and whether schools will be back at their normal time after the summer break on Tuesday. All of this depends on the assessments being carried out today.

Interestingly enough, all radio stations and TV stations went off the air, and the Government Emergency station had generator problems and was off the air. When part of the Police operations roof came off and had to be evacuated, the only contact with the outside world for a few hours was via myself relaying info (via 2 meters) to the guys on HF and getting the WX reports (via the Hurricane Watch Net) from the Hurricane Center. This lasted about two hours and when the Govt. station was operating we were giving them the updated reports received from (the National Hurricane Center) in Miami.

Best 73 Tony



**Official Website for the
Elmira Radio Club**

ANTENNA TESTING



The intrepid group of antenna testers. From left to right– Terry VE3XTM, Tom VE3DXQ, Al VA3TET, Reg VE3RVH and Bob VE3IXX.. Shown below is the 5 Watt Flex-Radio which received and measured the incoming signal.



Once the transmitter set-up was operational, no adjustments were made. The only thing that was done was to turn off the transmitter twice, so that the noise level could be measured on each of the two receiving antennas that were being tested out.

The day that was chosen to perform a field comparison test between a regular 20 meter dipole and the 20 meter Poynting antenna was also one of the heaviest rain days producing in excess of 3 inches of precipitation. So the participants had to wait for the next day, Sunday, Sept. 22 and tramp around the wet field in boots. But even the cool 13 degrees didn't dampen the enthusiasm.

The experiment was to compare the received signal strength in dBm and was measured on Terry's highly sophisticated Flex-Radio and his computer. A dBm is explained in Wikipedia:

"dBm (sometimes dBmW) is an abbreviation for the power ratio in decibels (dB) of the measured power referenced to one milliwatt (mW). It is used in radio, microwave and fiber optic networks as a convenient measure of absolute power because of its capability to express both very large and very small values in a short form. Compare dBW, which is referenced to one watt (1000 mW)."



Shown above right is the tiny crystal controlled transmitter and battery which provided a 101 mWatt cw signal up the transmitting tower on 14.3186 Mhz. The transmitting antenna and tower was erected (see below) at the very back of the field which was more that ten wavelengths from the receiving antenna.



Once the transmitter was set up, the group returned to the opposite end of the field and prepared the two test antennas. Both the dipole and the Poynting antennas were carefully tuned to resonance. First the 20 meter dipole was attached to a second ladder and carefully raised up and guyed with rope. A rotor on the mast allowed the antenna to be rotated a full 360 degrees while Terry recorded the signal measurements from the Flex Radio. Before the makeshift tower was lowered to test the Poynting antenna, the transmitter was shut off so Terry



Here's Al, laying down on the job of adjusting the 20 meter dipole.



could test the noise level in dBm. Then the dipole was taken down and replaced with the Poynting antenna. Once again it was pulled up and guyed on the same tower (see the two pictures). Using the same procedure Terry recorded the measurements for the full 360 degrees and also the measurement with the transmitter turned off.





Terry, reading the data on the computer.. Below, Tom calls Al on the hand-held to turn off the transmitter.



Reg, disassembling the equipment..

SURVEY

FOR

WEDNESDAY NIGHT NETS

This survey is intended solely as a discussion to achieve three goals for the Wednesday Night Nets.

1. Get more people interested and involved in the nets.
2. Get a greater number of people to become committed net controllers.
3. Add a variety of interests to the nets.

Topic 1.

What things might be generally done to encourage greater participation?

What might be done to improve the net?

Topic 2

Would it be useful to hold a workshop to improve confidence in being a net controller?

Would it be better to hold an on-the-air workshop?

Would it be useful to get speakers with lots of net experience come in to teach techniques?

Topic 3

Would you like to discuss a pre-arranged topic, say perhaps once month?

Would you like to have a practice emergency net?

Do you have any general comments?

E-mail any comments to
ve3ixx@rac.ca

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE

A REPORT OF A VISIT TO THE INDUSTRY CANADA
MONITORING STATION IN ACTON
BY SEVERAL MEMBERS- LOOK FOR IT!!

DO YOU HAVE ANY

Stories or Articles

Projects

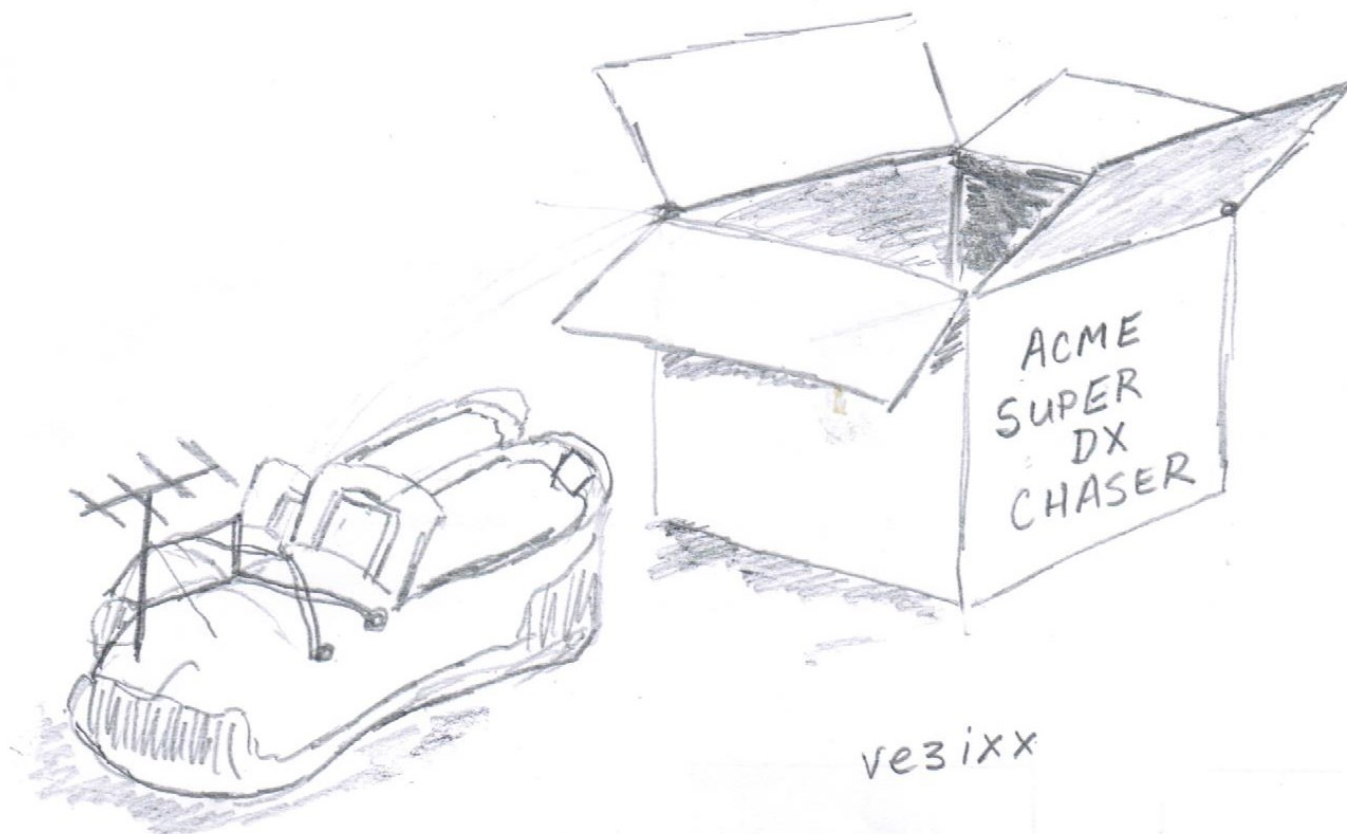
Pictures

Anecdotes or

Letters to the editor

that you would like to share?? Just contact me at **ve3ixx@rac.ca** or **robertkoechl@yahoo.ca** and I would be more than happy to include them in the newsletter.

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!



It is sometimes amazing what kind of effect we can have on our family and even extended family when we juggle family and hobby. The following is a poem written by my granddaughter, Anna who is in Grade 3.

I love rainbows
I love Nana and Papa
Nana loves everyone
Papa loves radios

VE3IXX

WEDNESDAY NITE NET CONTROLLERS

OCTOBER 2 - REG VE3RVH
OCTOBER 9 - DOUG VE3CXU
OCTOBER 16 - CARL VE3FEF
OCTOBER 23 - M E E T I N G
OCTOBER 30 - AL VA3TET
NOVEMBER 6 - RALPH VE3EUC
NOVEMBER 13 - HARRY VE3EIX
NOVEMBER 20 - WALLY VE3LCR
NOVEMBER 27 - M E E T I N G