

NORTH SHORE ARC



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www.osha.igs.net/~lsolomon/nsarc



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April 2006

Hamfest Time is here

From: Howie VE3TYQ

Remember to mark April 21st and 22nd on your calendars.

Setup is at 22:00 on the 21st. All hands needed to insure a quick and safe setup. Bring gloves.

Let Howie and Steve know when you can help on the security detail. Let Gary know how you can assist with the other functions.

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Meanderings on putting up a dipole

From Guest Contributor: Peter VE3GY

Peter and his family live on the farm just a short tractor-ride from bustling downtown Bailieboro.

I was looking for a center insulator, but more than that, I needed something with some structural strength as well. The reasons for this will soon become clear as you learn of my foiled attempts at raising a recent dipole, (and No, I'm not talking aluminium).

At the last QTH, I had used the following technique. With the use of glue gun I slathered copious amounts of the snot across the centre 6 inches of leg-twin-lead-leg. This lasted years. It could still be up, for all I know.

Anyway, getting back to the near present.

At the new QTH, (near Bailieboro), my first attempt to jimmy up, (sorry James), a dipole used no insulator, per say, other than the 300 ohm twin-lead, (no heat gun goop). The legs of the dipole merely soldered to the twin-lead. I never even got a chance to operate this rendition of the dipole. Not having any "Tension Management System", (no spring, or pulley), it came down in shorted order, with the first

bit of wind. The dipole leg had divorced itself from the twin-lead!

So, my dipole was down, and not loading up very well, to say the most.

So stringing it up again, I was puzzling about a center insulator. As a kid I had used the necks from broken pop bottles as end insulator, as long wires were the only antennas employed. I'm not sure if this reminiscing brought me to thinking of using a 2 litre plastic pop bottle cap as an insulator. I drilled 2 holes to snugly accept the legs of the dipoles. I pushed/cajoled/convincing the wires through the holes and tied a simple hitch to prevent their escape, leaving about an inch to strip and solder. I then hoisted this 2nd rendition of the dipole up. (see "hoisting" below). Well there is/are no gods. Or, maybe there is/are. What I'm getting at is, this 2nd rendition came down almost as fast as the first! The twin-lead had mechanically weakened and failed at the solder joint to the dipole leg.

OK, I'm still not giving up on the pop bottle lid. It's still too handy and cheap to not give it another try. The next enhancement is to melt a slot through the cap to accept the twin lead thus providing some support to it and avoid the stress on the solder joint. I used the soldering iron to melt the slot, in between the two holes for the dipole legs. I avoided making the slot too loose for the twin lead. I did all this while on a ladder, because that's where the bottle cap was hanging. I feed the twin lead through the cap, and soldered up the dipole legs, and hoisted, (see hoisting below), the dipole up. I would suggest "potting" the bottle cap with glue gun goop. I didn't. The dipole is still up and has sustained some wind. I also have a Tension Management system now. The end of the polypropylene is tie to a springy fence wire that can that can be pulled a foot or two.

Note: As of April 5, after a very windy weekend the dipole is still up!

I put the twin lead into a tuner/matcher and it loads up on all bands.

Important Note / N.B. (for the Latin cognizant): If you have trouble getting the dipole to load up on a band, add a few feet to the twin lead feed-line. I haven't

needed to do this, but I've heard it works. You can even make a tuner out of twin lead by building a switching arrangement that can add 1, 2, 4, 8, and 16 foot chunks of twin lead. This switching mechanism enables the addition of all lengths of twin-lead from 1 to 31 feet of feed line, in one foot increments. I have not tried this out, but again I've heard it works. I intend to give it a go myself.

Hoisting:

I simply tied about 80 feet of polypropylene twine to the end of the dipole and a broken claw hammer to the other end. I lay a spool of twine in large loose loops on the ground to facilitate the twine spooling out when I toss the hammer as high as I can into the tree. I use a sweeping underhand swing that, if I'm lucky, puts the hammer through the top of the tree and the hammer near the ground on the other side of it. This rarely works on the first attempt, although my success on the first throw is increasing with practice/age. I then just hoist the dipole up.

72, 73, and gud DX
Peter
VE3GYY

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The Membership Report

From: Les VA3LTB

I finally found the name I was looking for, as I initially missed him when making up the latest Membership list for North Shore Amateur Radio Club. For the passed few years the club has been maintaining between 55 and 65 members. Our present numbers stand at 58 paid up members for the 2006 Year. There are still some outstanding members who have not yet paid the membership fee for this year. I am not going to embarrass the member by publishing his name. I have heard all the reasons why an individual can't pay their membership. Of the number still outstanding I only anticipate 2 or 4 more to pay up.

One thing that is very noticeable is the number that show up for every meeting on the average half the membership is there. You are never alone in this club you are always welcome in to the club and there is lot's going on.

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From The Chair in the Shack:

Well folks, Spring is finally here and excuses for avoiding antennas are evaporating. If you need any changes or new antennas, there are lots of books

and experienced hams around for help. For those who help, there is the satisfaction of knowing that one has helped and probably made another friend. For those who are helped, an appreciation of the friends one has in the club is sure to sink in.

Actually, help is a topic that needs more thought from all of us. A good time for discussing what we'd like from the club would be in May or June. You are members of the club. What would you like from the club? There must be topics, techniques, stories you like that you can ask for. It can be really tiring to always wonder what to do at a meeting and whether one has chosen something that members would like.

Here are a few topics that could be visited.

- Do we really need repeaters?
- Do all our members have hf experience, and, if so, can they operate when they want to?
- Does anyone have an interest in a digital workshop? PSK31 works long after voice quits.
- Ever wonder how television works and how you can play with it as a ham?
- What do you really need for a good mobile hf station?

73 de Pete

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Well winter is gone. I know that because now my backache is from raking leaves out of the garden and yard work. At least in the winter all I had to do was shovel snow.

The race is on now, the lawn has to be raked, over-seeded, top-dressed and fertilized; all before it gets too warm. Thank goodness for below zero temperatures. It means it's too cold to disturb the soil but not too cold to work on antennas.

This Easter season reminds us of the time of renewal. It coincides nicely with daylight savings time and more available light after work. More light after work means that before the next meeting the mast will be up that 2 feet higher and hopefully with it a better pattern from my dipoles which won't be so close to the aluminum siding on the house. I was pondering what kind of pattern I'd get tuning up the siding, but it seems that bonding everything would be a bit tricky.

Hope springs eternal.

Your humble scribe
Ken
VE3RMK

NORTH SHORE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CLOTHING ORDER FORM

Please fill out this form and submit to Brian Hopkins, VA3BAH with cash or cheque payable to North Shore ARC. We need a minimum order of six items and your cheque has to clear before we can place the order with Brine Canada, therefore, please be patient regarding delivery.

Each embroidery item, with the exception of the baseball cap will have the club logo on the left side. You can have your call sign and your name embroidered on the right side. You can also order any colour available, (see catalogue pages)

Please call Brian if you have any questions @ 905-447-7298

All costs have been rounded up and include provincial sales tax and GST with a small amount going to the club.

Item	Colour	Size	Quantity	Cost Per Unit	Total
Jacket				\$65.00	
Fleece				\$75.00	
Golf Shirt				\$45.00	
Red Baseball Cap	North Shore Logo Only	N/A		\$12.00	
Red Baseball Cap	North Shore Logo w/amateur radio club on the back	N/A		\$18.00	
Red Baseball Cap	Shore Logo and call sign on the back	N/A		\$20.00	
Order Total					

Full Name: _____ Call Sign: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____

Telephone: _____ Postal Code: _____

Name & Call Sign to be embroidered: _____

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Paid	Cheque cleared	Order Submitted	Order Received	Order Delivered

Clocks For Your Radio Room

MFJ-105C



A true 24 hour quartz wall clock. The huge 12 inch diameter face gives excellent visibility across a computer or radio room. Handsome black face with white numerals and gold hands. Gold diameter trim looks impressive in any room. One "AA" battery (not included) provides over one year of operation.

\$34.95

MFJ-108B

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\$34.95

MFJ-125



This attractive clock is black with gold trim and a huge white face with 24 hour digits. Gold map, trim and hands make it the perfect clock for anywhere you require one! Little hands for the Day and Date, and 12 hour time are black. Easy to set and easy to see. It operates on a single "AA" battery (not included). Perfect for the home or office as well as the ham shack. Makes a great gift!

\$44.95

MFJ-112



World map clock shows you the time at any QTH throughout the world on an attractive LCD world map. Also shows day of week, month, date, and year. Time displays hour/minute/second. Choose 12 or 24 hour displays. Easy push-buttons move you East and West on the map to display a QTH in every time zone. Daylight savings time feature. Attractive grey color and cool blue back light for night viewing. Measures 4-1/2 (W) x 3-3/4 (H) x 2-1/4 (D) inches

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Atomic Clocks for Greater Accuracy

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MFJ-132RC



Atomic clock with alarm, temp and date has huge .563-inch height LCD digits. Receiver set to 60 kHz for WWVB receive. 24/12 Hour selectable with running seconds display. Dual alarm with 5 minute snooze function. Backlit with month and date display and indoor thermometer (Range +32F to +122F). Operates on 2 x "AA" batteries (not included). Perfect for the home or office.

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C-873 Atomic Projection Clocks

Aside from always being accurate to the second, the C-873 comes with an alarm and snooze function and automatically adjusts to daylight savings time. Focus control allows you to adjust the projection feature to your vision. Dimensions: 4 (H) x 4 (W) x 1.85 (D) inches. Operates on 2 x "AA" batteries (not included).



\$29.95 each

C-842 Atomic with Indoor Temperature

This quality clock is perfect for the desk or nightstand! It automatically sets itself to the US Atomic clock and adjusts for daylight savings time so it's always accurate to the second. Loaded with lots of great features such as oversized time display, 24 hour time capability, and indoor temperature. Best of all it sets itself to Year and Month. Operates on 2 x "AA" batteries (not included). Dimensions: 6 (W) x 6 (H) x 1 (D) inches.



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