



# Squelch Tales

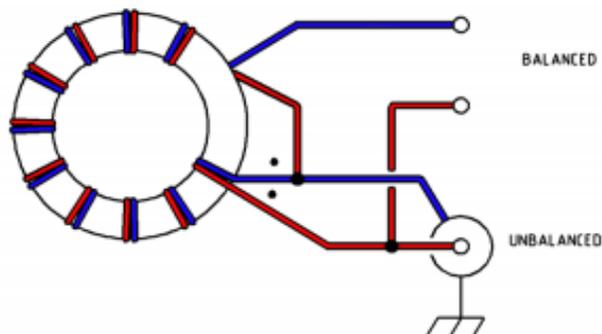


Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for July 2015

## Fun with toroid's, Part 3

By J. Bruce Randall, W1ZE

In the last issue of Squelch Tales I showed how to build a simple L-match tuner using a single toroid coil, a 365pF broadcast variable capacitor a SPDT switch and a few extra parts. This month I will describe how to build a small 100-watt class 4:1 balun using a T106-2 toroid and housed in a small 2x3x1 inch plastic project box.



Hookup drawing of the 4:1 balun

The only other parts needed are:

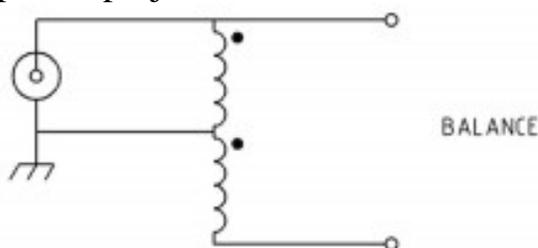
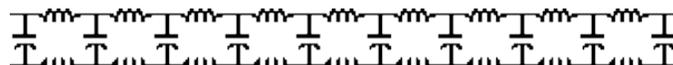
- SO239 Coax receptacle
- Two binding posts
- Small plastic project box
- 6-32 fasteners to mount the coax receptacle

I used this balun with my tuner feeding my 80-meter doublet (dipole) with 450-ohm window-line feeders and it stayed cool at the 100 watts level of RF.

If you need a 4:1 balun that will handle +/-200 watts, use a T200-2 toroid and place it in a slightly larger enclosure.

This is a fairly simple project and nice item to have around the shack and especially handy if you are stringing up a doublet for Field Day or other field HF activities and your tuner does not have a built-in 4:1 balun.

73 de W1ZE



4:1 balun schematic

At the time I built it all the parts except the toroid were available at Radio Shack, but alas, The old Rat Shack stores no longer exists in southern Maine. You will need to assemble the balun from online parts or hope to find it some of the parts at a Hamfest flea market.

I wound the balun coil in the standard winding configuration using 14 turns of two parallel No.20 insulated solid hookup wire of two different colors. A single color can be used if you remember which turn is what.

## Dayton was a Blast this Year

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago, I made my annual pilgrimage to Dayton for the 2015 Hamvention. This year, I had even more fun than in the past, and that's saying a lot.

I started Dayton 2015 on Thursday by attending the QRP-ARCI's Four Days in May (<http://www.qrparci.org/fdim/>) seminar. George Dobbs, G3RJV, gave a very nice talk that not only talked about circuits, but also the people he's met over the years and the places he's been. Paul, M0XPD, gave an interesting talk on crystal filters and using an Arduino to control a QRP rig. The final talk, by Glen, KW5GP, was also about using an Arduino to control a QRP rig. Other talks covered transmission lines and SWR and adventures in PCB making. I learned something in every single one.

That evening, I participated in Vendor's Night. I sold quite a few copies of my CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code and gave out quite a few "I'm a CW Geek" buttons and "Hams Obey Ohm's Law" stickers.

Friday and Saturday were all about the Hamvention. As far as new products go, there were a couple of interesting announcements. Elecraft introduced the K3S, an updated and upgraded K3 HF Transceiver, and FlexRadio introduced the Maestro, a "front end" with knobs, dials, and LCD screen for their software-driven radios. Apparently, hams like knobs and dials after all.

It seemed to me that there were more people at this year's Hamvention. There were certainly more sellers out in the flea market. And deals were to be had. I picked

up a Bencher BY-1 for only \$50. I also found a Hallicrafters HA-1 T.O. Keyer ([http://www.ai4fr.com/main/page\\_ham\\_radio\\_hallicrafters\\_ha1.html](http://www.ai4fr.com/main/page_ham_radio_hallicrafters_ha1.html)), which I believe to be the first commercially-available electronic keyer. Produced in the 1960s, it uses tubes to generate dots and dashes.

Dayton usually has a great lineup of forums, but aside from perhaps the TAPR forum, the Antennas forum, and maybe the ATV forum, none of them really called to me. Also, I was really busy talking to people I know, meeting readers, and trying to get the dealers to carry my books, so I didn't get to a single one.

Being the CW geek that I am, I'm hoping to hold a CW forum at next year's Hamvention. I've already contacted the forum people, and while they haven't committed to giving me time, I did get a very positive response. C U THR?

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*When he's not attending the Dayton Hamvention, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com) or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).*



## Two KS1R Repeaters received final Coordination by NESMC

In early June two of the three MARA's KS1R repeaters that were relocated from Oak Hill to Phippsburg received final coordination by the New England Spectrum Management Council (NESMC). The 447.575 D-Star repeater and the 147.21 analog-digital repeater have received final approval. The 444.4 repeater is scheduled to receive final approval in October.



# K1NIT Request

From Maine section Manager **Bill Crowley**

ARRL President Kay Cragie, N3KN, has asked me to pass on to you the following information about HR-1301, the Amateur Radio Parity Act. We are looking for Maine hams, especially ones in the second congressional district (generally north and east of Augusta) to contact your representative to urge support for the bill. Rep. Chellie Pingree has already signed on as a cosponsor of the bill, as she did in the last session of Congress, and hams who live in her district are asked to drop her a note, send her an e-mail, or call her thanking her for her support.

ARRL Washington council Chris Imlay, W3KD, recently met with Brendan Conley in Rep. Bruce Poliquin's office, to request that he sign on as a cosponsor, as his predecessor Rep. Mike Michaud did. To date, Rep. Poliquin has not made a commitment one way or the other.

In Kay's message to Section Managers (reprinted below), there is a link to information you can use in your appeal to Rep. Poliquin, including a sample letter. Please take just a few minutes of your time and help ARRL and your fellow hams, both here in Maine and throughout the country.

Thanks. *Bill Crowley, K1NIT*



## **Parkview Adventist Hospital in Brunswick files for Bankruptcy**



As reported in the Portland Press Harold on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Parkview Adventist Medical Center will close its emergency department

and acute inpatient care departments on Thursday for a planned merger with former rival Mid Coast Health Services of Brunswick. See:

<http://www.pressherald.com/2015/06/16/brunswick-hospital-files-for-bankruptcy/>

Noting this event, on June 17<sup>th</sup> Steve Kerchel, AA4AK quickly went over to Parkview Hospital that morning and retrieved the Midcoast ARES/CERT jump kit. Steve will hold on to it for safe keeping until it is assigned to a new home.



## **Toys for sale**

**By W1ZE**

I'm clearing out my basement and Ham Shack and looking to sell the following items to someone from a good home.

**(1) Heathkit SB-220 KW amplifier in good physical condition (no mods) with documentation (manual) on CD.**



**Asking \$500** if you pick it up at my QTH.

**(2) ICOM PS-125 12.6VDC switching power supply** for IC-746, 756, 736 and many others. **Asking \$60**



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