



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merry Meeting Amateur Radio Association for February 2017



By J.B. Randall, WIZE

For those of you that are new to the HF bands and considering chasing DX and obtaining the coveted DXCC and other DX awards your quest can be a lot of fun and a challenge. However these days there are a lot of poor operators, (LIDs) out there also chasing DX making the experience a bit unpleasant. Because of this the RSGB, ARRL and others highly recommended that you take the following **DX Code of Conduct** pledge.

I will listen, and listen, and then listen again before calling.

I will only call if I can copy the DX station properly.

I will not trust the DX cluster and will be sure of the DX station's call sign and his listening QSX frequency before calling.

I will not interfere with the DX station nor anyone calling and will never tune up on the DX stations frequency or in the QSX slot.

I will wait for the DX station to end a contact before I call.

I will always send my full call sign.

I will call and then listen for a reasonable interval.

I will not call continuously.

I will not transmit when the DX operator calls another call sign, not mine.

I will not transmit when the DX operator queries a call sign not like mine.

I will not transmit when the DX station requests geographic areas other than mine.

When the DX operator calls me, I will not repeat my call sign unless I think he has copied it incorrectly.

I will be thankful if and when I do make a contact.

I will respect my fellow hams and conduct myself so as to earn their respect.

Most of these recommendations are common sense and just being polite and efficient. If you follow these rules you will be an A1 DX operator and make the more contact.

For further information about the DX Code of Conduct,, go to: <http://www.dx-code.org/> and http://www.cdxa.org/iframe_dx_code_of_conduct.php

73 and Good DXing – WIZE



WinterFest 2017



Augusta Amateur Radio Association will host WinterFest 2017 on Saturday, February 25 at Le Club Calumet, 334 West River Road (State Route 135), Augusta, beginning at 8:00 a.m.

The event will feature the traditional flea market (tables are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis), meetings for the Maine Seagull Net, Maine Slow Speed Net, and Pine Tree Net, as well as a new novelty event. George, K1GDI, will conduct a QLF ("Try sending with your left foot) contest. At the end of the hamfest, there will be an auction of donated items (Interpret that to say that if it didn't sell during the fleamarket, then maybe it will during the auction!) to benefit the Good Shepard Food Bank.

Breakfast, lunch and snacks will be available on site, and in case you didn't bring quite enough cash for that must-have item

at the fleamarket, there is an ATM in the lobby.

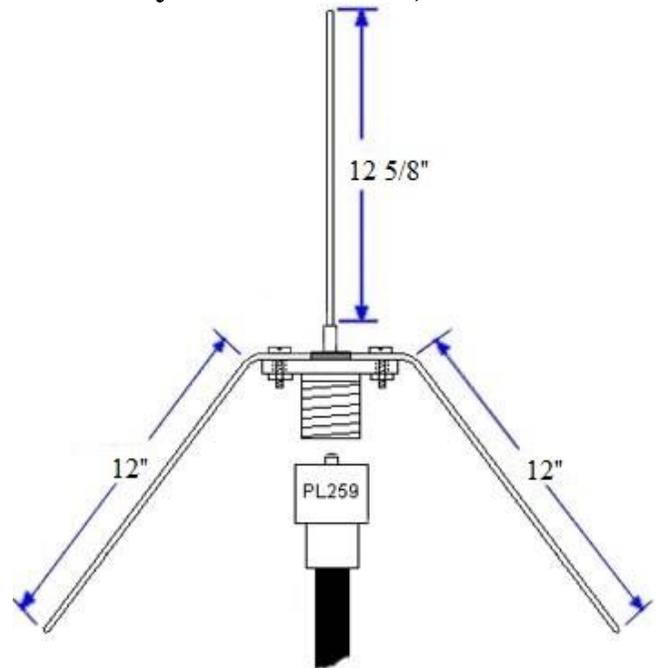
Door prizes will be drawn at noon, and the winning ticket must be present to win.

Admission is \$5.00 person, with children under 16 admitted free when accompanied by a paying adult.

For further information, call Bill, K1NIT, at 207-512-0312 or 207-623-9075.



The W1DYJ 220 MHz GP revisited By Bruce Randall, W1ZE



Larry Banks, W1DYJ was good enough to provide Squelch Tales readers with several articles on his inexpensive 220 MHz Ground Plane antenna made with a SO-239 connector, several feet of solid No.12

household (TW) electrical wire and a few wire lugs. He put his Ground Plane in the attic of his house with good success.

Out here in sometimes sunny San Diego I too operate on the old 220 MHz band. Last year I built the wire Ground Plane antenna Larry described and installed it on a short PVC pipe mounted to the side of the carport and it worked slick, allowing me access to the local Condor Link (220) system and other 220 repeaters in the area.

A few weeks ago, just after the new year we had a weather front move down the California coast with high winds and driving rain. The winds were strong enough to bend the wire vertical element on my 220 GP over by 45-degrees. It still worked OK but the SWR climbed up to over 2:1.

While at the local Lowe's hardware emporium I looked in their hardware metals and found several lengths of 1/8" brass rod, so I purchased three 3 foot lengths. I replaced the No.12 copper wire elements on my GP with equal lengths of the brass rod. The vertical element required me to taper (file) down one end of the element so that it would fit into the center terminal on the SO-239 and then soldered it in snugly. I used four 'Yellow' wire logs soldered to one ends of each 12 inch brass rod radial, but removed the yellow plastic sleeve before soldering. Over the vertical element solder joint I wrapped it generously with moldable rubber electrical tape for weatherproofing and added structural support.

After installing it back on the carport it works just as well as before with a very low SWR and I suspect the next wind storm will not bend it over.

If you build one of Larry's designed 220 GPs for use outdoors I recommend using brass rod vs copper wire and you should have a long lasting 220 ground plane.

73, W1ZE



February meeting program by W1DYJ

At the February 23rd MARA meeting Larry Banks, W1DYJ will do a half-hour or so "walk-through" of the N3FJP logging software.

<http://www.n3fjp.com/index.html>

<https://youtu.be/qVa8T3fK13M>

Come early and get a good seat.

