



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association
for April 2023



A simple multi-band wire vertical

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE

If you are a back-packer, Field Day operator or just want a simple wire antenna to get on HF and even work some DX the following simple wire vertical may be for you.

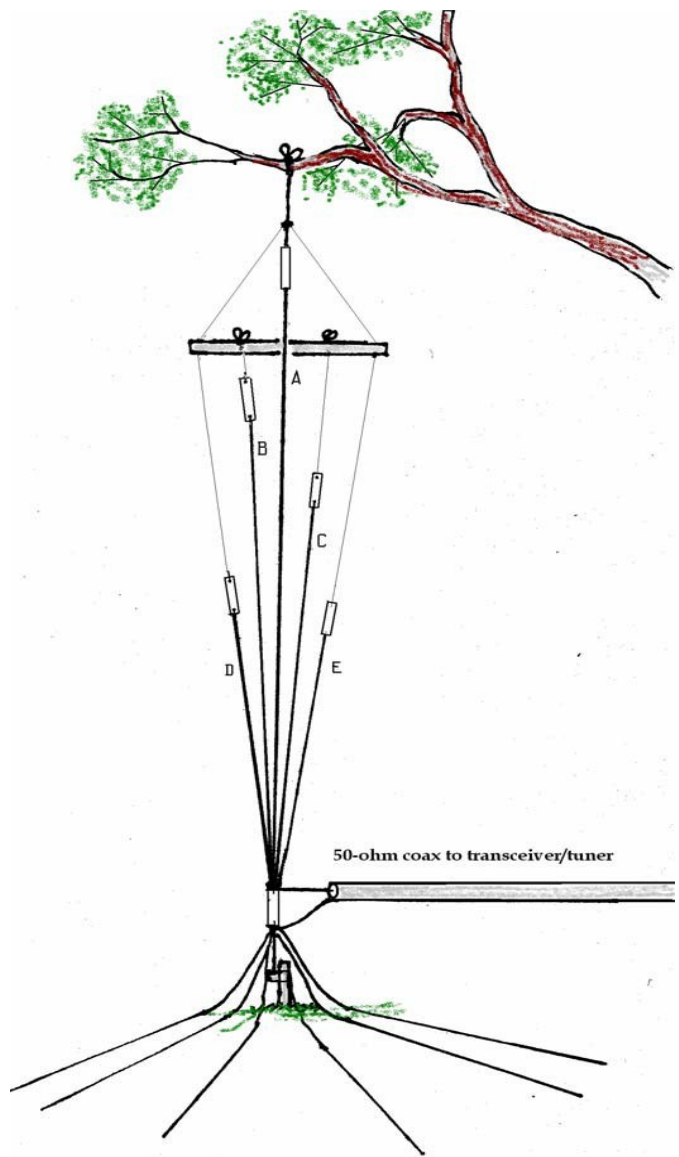
I have used the following design several times and the thing works. When I first moved to Maine in 1978 I lived at the in-laws QTH in Winthrop until the family arrived from California. While there I put up a 20-15-10 meter ground mounted vertical made out of hook-up wire purchased at the Radio Shack shop in Augusta and some insulators made out of 4-foot length of 3/4" OD PVC pipe from my father-in-law's scrap bin. With that antenna I was able to maintain a 20 meter schedule with WB6PQH, WA6YCG and W6JBO in California every Sunday morning and chase DX too.

The following design can be built as a single band or as a multi-band antenna. However the following version is for a 20-17-15-12-10 meter vertical. Each vertical element is 1/4-wave long and resonant for the desired bands.

At the base of the antenna is a tent stake to tie down the array, but if your application is a little more permanent, sink a four to eight foot ground rod in lieu of the tent stake.

Since the radial system is on the ground there is no need to cut them to resonance. Just put down as many as you can with lengths from 8 to 17 feet.

In my applications I used nylon string as a halyard line over a tree branch, but if you plan on leaving it up for a prolonged period I recommend Dacron line.



ELEMENT WIRE LENGTHS:

A = (14.2 MHz) – 16 ½ feet

B = (18.110 MHz) – 12' 11"

C = (21.2 MHz) – 11'

D = (24.9 MHz) – 9' 4"

E = (28.4 MHz) – 8' 2"

After you get it up you may want to adjust the wire lengths a little to get the lowest possible SWR at the portion of each band you want to frequent most often. The antenna tuner in most modern transceivers will tune an SWR of 3:1 or less so if you pick the middle of each band you should be able to have good performance across each each band.



FUN AT THE ARRL MAINE STATE CONVENTION & ANDY HAMFEST

Reported by Bruce, WIZE

Predicted stormy wether held off long enough so that there was a very successful Convention and Hamfest at the Ramada Inn in Lewiston.

This reporter arrived at the Inn at 8:00AM and the parking lot was already filled with lots of cars and trucks with communication antennas sticking out of them.



Bruce, WIZE, former Maine Section Manager Bill Woodhead, N1KAT, present Maine Section Manager Phil Duggen, N1EP and ARRL New England Division Director Fred Kemmerer, AB1OC at the QCWA table.

Elbow room was at a premium in the main room fleamaeket. This year there seemed to be less boat anchor rigs and more current radios up for sale and traid.

The ARRL Forem in the second floor conference room was well attended along with various seminars.

At 12:30 after the door prizes were handed out there was a VE session run by the MARA's Dan Wakeman, KA1WAL that had a dozen applicants. After it was all over there were a lot of happy new hams and several upgrades.

A well done should go out to the Andy Club for sponsoring and running a very successful event. Thanks to Phil Duggan and Fred Kemmerer from the ARRL for helping the Andy club have a fun and entertaining event.



QCWA Meeting at the Maine State Convention & Andy Hamfest was well attended



A nice group of members and friends attended the Maine Pine Tree Chapter 134 meeting held during the ARRL Maine State Convention and Andy Hamfest in Lewiston.

During the meeting Chapter business was discussed and a new slate of officers were selected for the next two years. Jerry Burns, K1GUP will continue on as president with Bruce Randall, W1ZE continuing as Secretary-Treasurer. In addition Joyce LaGasse(WA1YZV), Norm Clanton (KA1SG), David Melochick (W1COP) and Bill Mann (W1KX) will serve as board members.

The group voted to send \$200 to QCWA Scholarship Fund as was done in the past.

Jerry Burns also received his sixty five years of service from QCWA HQ.



At the end of the business portion of the meeting Jerry gave a talk and demo of his KN1GUP 1959 Novice Station.



Bill Woodhead (N1KAT) Pine Cone Net Manager passed out PCN Frequent Flyer certificates to Chapter members who regularly check into the Pine Cone Net Which Included

N1EP, WA1YZV, W1KX, WA1YZV, N1MA, WD1F, K1GUP, W1RKK and W1ZE.



Donnie Dauphin, WD1F receiving PCN Certificate

Next Pine tree Chapter meeting will be held at Hampden's Anglers Restaurant the first Saturday in June following the Herman Hamfest. Hope you can attend.





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