



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association
for November 2025



How to make a Hustler 6BTV an 8BTV on the CHEAP!

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE

For almost 38 years I used a Butternut HF6V vertical as a secondary antenna at four different locations in California and in Maine. For all those years I think it was the best multi-band vertical I ever used. In all but one location the Butternut was ground mounted over ground level radials or a counterpoise screen. The antenna was especially useful for lower band DXing.

By the end of that 38 year span the old HF6V was requiring more maintenance due to weathering. So I made the decision to replace it with a new vertical. Over the past 40 years the price of the HF6V is now over \$1k making me think of a vertical a bit less costly.

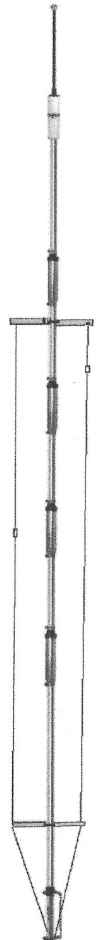
There are lots of multi-band vertical on the market but after reading the reviews on most of them I settled on the old, built like a tank, Hustler 6BTV antenna that has been around for many years. It covers 80 or 75, 40, 30, 20, 15 and 10 meters but not the newer 12 and 17 meter bands. That didn't bother much because I have other antennas that cover those bands. Assembly was straight

forward and directions were very easy to follow. I ground mounted it using the ground system used by the old Butternut vertical. Since I mostly operate CW and some digital I tuned the bands to the CW lower end of the bands. On 80 meters the antenna is very narrow so I definitely needed to make the sweet spot on that band around 3.55 MHz. Initial results were very promising and performance almost as good as the older HF6V.

Over time I was using more digital than CW on the vertical. I thought that having the ability to use the 6BTV on 12 and 17 meters would be a plus for my operating needs.

On the DXengineering web page they had 12 meter and 17 meter kits designed to work on the 5BTV and 6BTV. However, they were not giving them away cheap, less than \$100 each but not by much.

I said to myself, "self, you grumpy old guy, why not just add two quarter wave vertical element, one for each new band fed at the input to the main vertical element at the mounting bracket." That is what I did. Using number 14 stranded wire for the elements, PVC pipe for the standoff elements and end insulators, two u-bolts and a hose clamp, all available at your local hardware emporium.



The attached sketch illustrates the finished mod.

The 12-meter wire should be +/-9'5" and the 17-meter wire +/-13'. add a little extra to allow for tuning.

With just a minor wire length adjustment the SWR on both bands was 1.3:1 or less. On air performance was what one would expect for a ground mounted vertical on those bands.

If you are thinking of a well built multi-band vertical, the Hustler 6BTV with the "8BTV" mod may work nicely for you on the HF ham bands.

73, Bruce, W1ZE



**To ARRL clubs in
New England**

By Tom Frenaye



As you are likely aware, we are working on an extensive program to get support for important legislation in Congress. It is called the

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act

and in the Senate is S.459 and House is H.R.1094. In the last few weeks a number of House members have signed as co-sponsors and we expect many more Senate and House members to add their names in the coming weeks. More details can be found here -

<http://www.arrl.org/current-legislation>

The reason for this email to club presidents, newsletter editors, and club contact people is to ask that your club submit a letter of support the legislation on behalf of your club. The link below has detailed instructions and a template letter in MS Word format. Please take the time to create the requested letters and send them in ASAP SO
-<https://send-a-letter.org/club>

Thanks to a large number of ARRL members we have done well in gathering individual signatures from ARRL members. We can also use signatures from non-ARRL member hams, we will all benefit from the passage of the legislation. Encourage all members of your club and your ham radio community to use this link to send their own individual letters -

<https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>

Thanks for your help so far and let's all work to get this legislation passed!

73 Tom/K1KI, ARRL Director, New England Division

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REQUEST FROM A SOUTH AMERICAN HAM

Greetings W1ZE

I hope you and your family are well, my friend.

My name is ADENOIR. I am a radio amateur in Brazil and my call sign is PY2SKY.

Here in my city I am part of a group of young scouts. They are boys and girls aged 14 to 15.

We have a really cool project. We teach our hobby to young scouts and prepare them to obtain a radio amateur license.

For years our meetings were held on the premises of the Grand Masonic Lodge in our city. Today we have our own headquarters.

In our club's radio room, our scouts are setting up a large display panel with QSL cards from radio stations in Brazil and other countries.

If possible, we would like to receive a copy of your personal QSL card or that of a radio club you are a part of.

This card will not be valid as confirmation of contact, but rather as a collector's item. It would be an honor for us to be able to display a QSL card from your station.

For our young people, this cultural exchange is very important. They love it when an envelope arrives with a postage stamp from another country.

Collectible gifts about your city are welcome. (stamps, postcards, stickers, emblems, tourist guide, flags, coins or other souvenirs).

We eagerly await your correspondence, my friend. When sending the envelope, if possible let me know the date of posting; I will ask the young scouts to track it at the post office in Brazil.

We hope to see you soon on the amateur radio bands in better propagation conditions.

If you are a scout or have ever been part of the worldwide scout movement, then you are our scout brother.

"Once a scout. Always a scout!"

A big hug from the scouts of Brazil.

Health, PEACE and good DX's.

73 my friend,

ADENOIR - PY2SKY (:-)

Brazilian Radio Scouting

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Become and Elmer by helping someone become a Ham



A NOTE TO SQUELCH TALES READERS

From John Goran, K1JJS

We have a long-time ham and public servant in need of assistance. Rick N6PSP and his wife are in California, and have dedicated their lives to serving our country, their local community and other hams.

I know Rick. He was first to assist me when I needed some help last year in California. He is very active in several local clubs and ARES.

You can find the whole story on the GoFundMe page.

Please take this link to the GoFundMe page and pass it along, publish it in your newsletters, and get these fellow hams some help.

Thanks.

73

John K1JJS

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/restore-comfort-for-rick-and-norma>

