



# SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for June 2026



## June is Six Meter Month

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE

For years the month of June has seen increased activity on the old six meter Magic Band. This month should be no exception because it already started in late May with openings for us up here in Maine making E-skip QSOs down into the states below the Mason-Dixon line, into the Caribbean and west in the direction of the Mississippi.

Even a simple dipole cut for 50 MHz will land you a log full of contacts in all modes, especially SSB and digital FT8. Donnie, WD1F in Phippsburg has a copper pipe halo on his roof and makes lots of contacts with that simple low profile antenna.

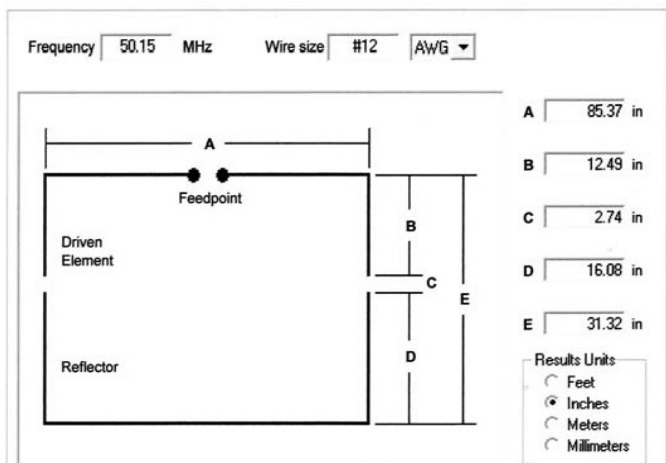
I have always enjoyed operating on six meters because even in-country DX contacts are fun to make. These days I only have a 50 MHz Moxon just above my HF beam and that little simple beam has landed me hundreds of contacts around the country and even into Europe and South America when we have double-hop skip of F-layer enhancement.

In years back I had multi element six meter beams up on my tower but found out that even a Moxon helped me obtain Six Meter VUCC with over a 150 grid squares worked.

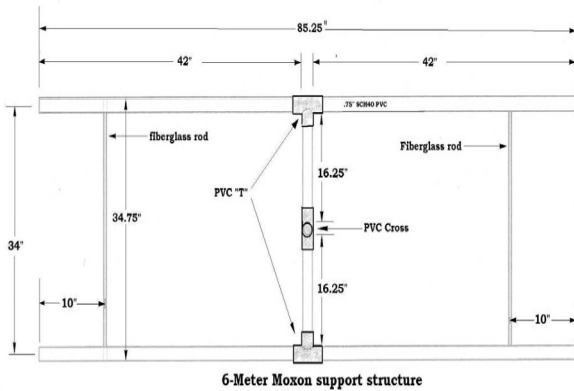
Years ago in the Squelch Tales newsletter I had a column on how to build a Six Meter Moxon out of local hardware store parts and thought it would be a good time to let you folks new to Ham Radio and six meter maybe consider building your own and enjoy the Magic Band too.

### Extract from previous article

I have read about and viewed several short two-element beams called a Moxon that has been getting a lot of press and lots of folks building them. The Moxon is a two element Yagi with the wire ends bent inward facing the opposite element. I thought the Moxon would be a good inexpensive antenna to build for Field Day. I went to the web to see what I could find. I Googled the word Moxon and get dozens of hits. I then refined my search to six- meter Moxon and came up with another dozen hits. I even found a web site that had a Moxon calculator. Just enter the frequency and wire size and it gives you all the wire length dimensions.



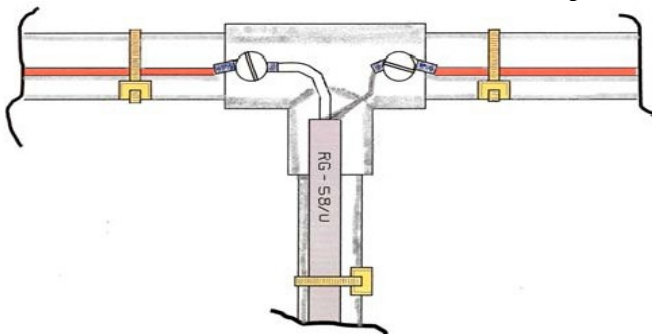
Being a guy that likes to build small antennas from PVC pipe I thought the Moxon would be a good candidate. After some calculation on the old graph paper I headed off to the local hardware emporium to gather up the stuff to build a six-meter Moxon antenna frame. I purchased two 10-foot lengths of 3/4 inch schedule 40 PVC pipe, two 3/4 inch PVC pipe Tees and a 3/4 inch PVC pipe cross connection.



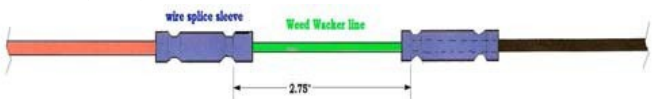
6-Meter Moxon support structure

While browsing through the store I noted a display rack with bicycle flag whips used to keep an eye on your kids in a crowd. The whip was made with 1/4-inch fiberglass rod stock. I thought that would make a pair of stiffening rods to keep the PVC pipe element from bending in when the wire elements were tightened up.

About an hour in the workshop had the frame assembled and I had cut the needed # 12 wire in accordance with the Moxon calculation program. I assembled the feed-point of the driven element using a couple stainless steel 6-32 screws and nuts. I applied crimp-on connectors to the end of the wire and attached them to the feed point.



The element end insulator needed to be 2 3/4 inches apart so I thought of using some scrap PVC but came up with an idea I thought would work and it did. I made the end tie-insulator out of some heavy Weed-Whacker® monofilament line and two crimp type wire splicing sleeves (blue)



At the feed point I used short section of RG-58U coax with a few ferrite beads slid over it to act as a 1:1 current balun. If you do not have a ferrite chokes, you could build a choke balun by making a four or five turn coil in the coax feed line about six inches in diameter at the antenna feed point.

Then came the acid test while at Field Day. With the Moxon atop at 30-feet and the coax hooked up to my FT-897D, I tuned-up on 50.125 and “YIPEE” I had an SWR of less than 1.2:1 and I could hear stations thundering in. Good time to have the band open. I rotated it to check the front to back and it was what you would expect for a two element Yagi, about 15db change on the S-meter while tuned to the then WB1OJB beacon in Bowdoin about 6 miles away (ground wave).

If you want a small effective but cheap six-meter beam, try a Moxon. I think you will be pleased with the results and have fun building one.

There is lots of information about six meter Moxon antennas on the Internet. You may want to check them out to see how other folks built them.

73, Bruce WIZE



## MAINE CONVENTION & HAMFEST

**Saturday, August 1, 2026,**

**at the Augusta Civic Center**

76 Community Dr, Augusta off Exit 112/112A.

Doors open to the public at 8 AM, goes til noon.

Vendor check-in is 6 AM. General Admission \$10 (Ages 18 and younger are free).

Come join us for a day of buying & selling, talks and VE test 8 -12. Walk-Ins taken. Camping is

free, no water hookup, if you need electricity there is a \$50 charge. No tent camping. Campers please check in on Friday no later than 3:00 PM

with the front office. Vendors, get your table early. \$20 per table in advance and \$5 vendor admission. Tables go up to \$25 each day of the convention. For More Information visit

<http://w1npp.org/convention>



39<sup>th</sup>  
**HERMON  
HAMFEST &  
FLEAMARKET**



**This year it is not in June, it  
is in July!**

Take a ride up I-95 to the thriving matropolis  
of Herman. Sell some stuff and/or buy some  
stuff, and have some fun on July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Start Date: 07/11/2026 - End Date: 07/11/2026

Location: Hermon High School

2415 Route 2, Hermon, ME

Website: <http://n1me.org>

Sponsor: Pine State ARC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.940 136.5

Public Contact: Jerry Burns , K1GUP

PO Box 61 Carmel, ME 04419

Phone: 207-848-3400 / 207-249-97

Email: [k1gupjerry@gmail.com](mailto:k1gupjerry@gmail.com)

**Hope to see you there.**



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