



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for September 2026

ARRL Maine State Convention a Success!



Thanks to Cory Golob, KU1U and his Androscoggin Amateur Radio Club team they managed produce a very successful State Convention. It was well attended and feedback from attendees were all positive.

This year there were more vendors selling ham radio related items along with many tables filled with radio equipment for sale or trade.

Thanks for a very good time and a job well done. Keep up the good work.



The QCWA Pine Tree Chapter meets at the Maine State Convention

During the well attended Chapter meeting It was agreed that we should continue to help fund the QCWA Scholarship, but with inflation on the rise it was proposed and passed unanimously by the members in attendance that this year we increase the contribution from \$200 to \$300. To help facilitate this increase we received an anonymous \$100 contribution from a member in attendance.



During the meeting, Chapter President Jerry Burns, K1GUP presented a 65 year in Ham Radio certificate to John Huffman, K1ESE



If you were first licensed 25 or more years ago we would love for you to join the QCWA and the local Maine Pine Tree Chapter.

For more information about the QCWA go to: <https://www.qcwa.org/> or you can contact Bruce Randall, W1ZE (Chapter Sec./Tres.) at: w1ze@arrrl.net



A simple multi-band wire vertical

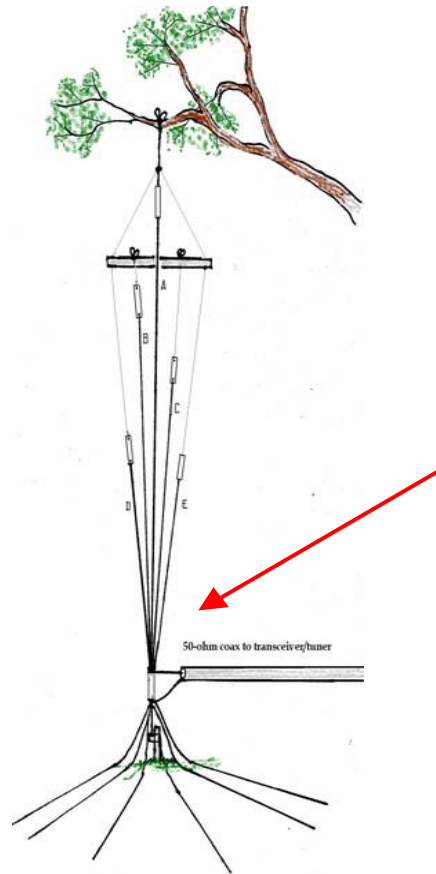
A reprint by W1ZE

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 then Radio Shack shop in Augusta and some insulators made out of 4-foot length of $\frac{3}{4}$ 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. The following is for a 20-17-15-12-10 meter vertical. Each vertical element is $\frac{1}{4}$ -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 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.

Simple wire antennas made from hardware store parts can be fun to build and make good contacts on the HF bands. Give it a try.

73,
Bruce, W1ZE



GREETINGS MAINE DX HUNTERS FROM CHILE

I help promote the DX Marathon, and I'm trying to get hams from more countries taking part. Would you join us? It's free, and there's no registration anywhere.

Everything happens at entry.dxmarathon.com — nothing needs to be sent to me. You upload an ADIF file from your logging program there. It can be your entire log, all years included: only 2026 QSOs count and including others does no harm, so there's no need to filter it or sort it by country or zone.

The site then asks two or three questions about power and antenna, and those questions are part of the submission: if you only upload the file and stop there, your entry never arrives. Use the standard category — the Challenge is a separate entry that counts your entities and zones band by band, so leave it aside for now.

No confirmation email is sent, so check it yourself at entry.dxmarathon.com/dxm/entries, where your callsign appears within a few minutes. Your DXCC entities and zones are shown at entry.dxmarathon.com/leaderboard — the sum of the two is your score.

You can upload again as many times as you wish through January 5th, 2027, and only the last submission counts. More details on www.dxmarathon.com and on the DX Marathon's QRZ page, W4DXM.

100% of participants get a certificate with their accomplishments.

If you use two callsigns, or if you operate remotely or from more than one location, there are two conditions worth knowing:

dxmarathon.com/rules/2026

Thanks, and see you on the bands.

73, Louis Sato Neira, CA6SNT,
DX Marathon Ambassador,
Valdivia, Chile



