



SQUELCH TALES



Newsletter from the Merrymeeting Amateur Radio Association for October 2026

OH NO, NOT ANOTHER 9:1 UNUN END FED ANTENNA ARTICLE

By Bruce Randall, W1ZE

Well yes, another End Fed Antenna column because I just couldn't help but describe my latest experiment with what I describe as another Junk Parts Antenna. An antenna that was built out of 90% basement collected junk material. If you visited my basement workshop you would agree that I do save almost everything I think I may be able to reuse again.

This story starts back many years ago when Bob Oxton, W1RSO gave me a selection of five to six foot lengths of aluminum tubing to add to my supply of junk material. It wasn't long before I decided to build a base loaded vertical that would cover 10 meters. It was about 17 feet in length and I wound a load/matching coil at the input to the whip in a plastic project box. It was successful and worked well on ten meters. It was mounted to a stink pipe on my roof and it lasted there for many years until two month ago.

In August I had to re-shingle my roof after 20 years and the 10 meter vertical that was not being used much had to come down to have the roof work done. I disassembled that vertical and put it in the basement as available Junk Parts bin.

No sooner than the roof job was finished I started to wonder, if with a little luck maybe I could resurrect the 10 meter vertical parts and maybe make it a multi-band vertical using a 9:1 UnUn toroid in lieu of a loading coil. Basically a vertical end fed aluminum tubing vertical. However, with only seventeen feet of tubing I needed to get a length near 23 to 25 feet. As luck would have it, in my metal scrap bin

there was a one inch diameter 4-foot long aluminum tube that at one time was a flag mast on our front porch. It fit nicely between the first section of the aluminum vertical whip and the follow-on sections then secured with a couple hose band clamps. With a little length adjustment I was able to make the antenna +/-25-feet in length. According the sweet-spot matrix chart for a 9:1 End Fed Wire antenna a 23-foot length should allow non-resonant performance from forty to six meters and maybe even 80/75-meters.

In my box of miscellaneous toroids, ferrite chokes and rods I had a T200-2 toroid that was good to make a HF 9:1 unun. So, I wound one and placed it in the plastic box that housed the old 10-meter tuning coil. The finished product was a vertical 9:1 unun end fed vertical whip.



Then the beta-test. I placed the antenna on my rear patio deck leaned up against the roof edge and ran a SWR test from 3.5 to 54 MHz. I was

tickled because on all the ham bands the antenna showed SWR readings of 3:1 at or less across all the ham bands. With the internal auto-tuner in my IC-746Pro I was able to get a 1.1:1 SWR on all bands. I then tested with my IC-756Pro and got the same results. The antenna did not its ground connection to a radial. I was just using the 50-foot long feed line coax shield as a counterpoise. Fortunately it appeared there was no detectable RIF getting back into the shack equipment.



Next was to make a fixed mounting for the vertical. Next to the patio deck was a flower border where I sank a 1-inch galvanized EMT pipe into the ground that extended up about six feet that I could attach the feed end of the antenna to, then brace it to the roof edge with an insulated support bracket. After completing the installation I ran the

SWR test on all the bands and nothing changed.

For the next few days I ran FT8 on all the bands except 80 and 6 meters and I was very happy with the DX log entries I was making with the vertical and 100-watts. Was it as good as my LPDA beam on the higher bands, maybe not but still very respectable results. At night 40 and 30 meters was a lot of fun and that end fed vertical performed just as well as my ground mounted Hustler HF6V multi-band vertical, but that Hustler does not cover 17 and 12 meters where the 9:1 end fed vertical does.

There is nothing new about this type of radial-less vertical and there are several popular ones on the market, such as:

- Sigma EUROCOM SE-HF-80X \$155
- Harrest Out 250B \$230
- SE-HF-360 \$269
- Diamond BB7V \$430
- Comet CHA-250HD \$499
- MOONRAKER GP2500HD \$230

Reviews on these antennas for the most part are positive ranging from very good to just OK. However, look at the price tag, They are not giving them away.

Conclusion: In my opinion my junk parts 9:1 UnUn End Fed Vertical is the winner because my total investment was the \$6.00 I originally spent for that T200-2 toroid several years ago.

Go build something for your ham radio hobby. It's fun and rewarding.

73, J. "Bruce" Randall, W1ZE



MARA'S VALUED MEMBER BECOMES A SILENT KEY



JACK GELFAND, K2BMI

JACK GELFAND, 81, born August 5, 1944 in Newark, NJ, died of complications related to dementia on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 in Portland, Maine.

Jack was the first in his family to achieve higher education, graduating from Rutgers University with a BS and PhD in Chemistry. He was a research scientist at Princeton University for most of his career, with a brief period at RCA Sarnoff Laboratory from 1985-1988. His research interests were in physics, astronomy, artificial intelligence, and psychology, one of the founding members of the Center for the Study of Brain, Mind, and Behavior. He was a co-author on more than 100 published research papers (with an Erdős number of 3) and worked with many students as their research advisor. After retiring from Princeton in 2006, he moved with his family to Central New York to work as the Director of Research Administration at SUNY Oswego, retiring in 2013. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Central Caribbean Marine Institute in the Cayman Islands.

Jack's enthusiasm was contagious, his curiosity was infectious and his fount of knowledge was encyclopedic. He could laugh and entertain family and friends with equal ease on topics from Ham radios, to the Big Bang, to jazz music. He was not just knowledgeable, he dove into his

interests head on. He sent out and collected QSL cards with ham radio operators he had contacted world-wide, winning many international radio contests over the years with the call sign K2BMI. He traveled to numerous remote, dark-sky areas with the 8-foot telescope he designed and built to fit into 2 checked bags. His hobbies also included playing conga drums, watching live music, cross-country skiing, sailing, and model rocketry. Jack's garage and basement were filled with equipment and gadgets to tinker with anything electronic or mechanical. And when he didn't have a basement, he still made it work, setting up a tiny workshop in a hall closet. He collected long-standing friends from all of his different hobbies.

Jack will be missed by all of us in the MARA. Rest in peace valued friend.



MARA needs Volunteer Examinors to help with License exam sessions.

Would you like to help out our Association by becoming a Volunteer Examiner?

To become an ARRL Volunteer Examiner (VE), review the Volunteer Examiner Manual, complete the VE Application form and open-book review, and submit your forms to the ARRL VEC. Once accredited, you will receive a VE badge and certificate in the mail.

For more information about the VE program and the MARA's efforts in providing exam sessions, contact Don Wakeman at: ka1wal.dsw@gmail.com or go to the ARRL web site at: <https://www.arrl.org/volunteer-examiners>



Sad work disassembling a good friends Shack

On Saturday September 19th a group of MARA volunteers assembled at the QTH of HarryMcNelley, N1TTT/SK to help his XYL in disassembling his extensive ham shack.



Thanks go out to Jim N1IPA, Marjory, KX1I, Tom WA1PJS, Mel KC1MPV Eric W1KCA and Bruce W1ZE for helping the wife of a good friend and Association member.

MARA Secretary Report & Request

At the September MARA meeting the date of the Year End (or New Years) Holiday lunch party was chosen to be Saturday, January 9, 2027 around lunch time.

Four locations are being put forth for consideration.

[Sea Dogs in Topsham ME](#)

[Mae's in Bath ME](#)

[J.R. Maxwell in Bath ME](#)

[Pepper's Landing in Brunswick ME](#)

Please email back indicating your choice of location, and if you wish a ranking of the locations. Also, let me know if you plan to attend and if you are bringing a spouse and/or guest.

73, Don KA1WAL

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What Happened to the All Ham Radio Operators? The Truth is Tragic

Larry Banks, W1DYJ in Woburn, MA sent this website to Squelch Tales readers as food for thought. Tale a listen.

[https://youtu.be/BYXR5CooqhY?
si=1uugvovzHrTVjkly](https://youtu.be/BYXR5CooqhY?si=1uugvovzHrTVjkly)

