CQ CHATTER

VOLUME B9 • Issue #8 WOOD COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SEPTEMBER 2008
P.O. BOX 534, Bowling Green, OH http://wcarc.bgsu.edu

President/Vice President	K8OVO/K8NEA	Don Buehrer/Duane Ashbaucher
Secretary	N1RB	Bob Boughton
Treasurer	WD8JWJ	Bill Wilkins

Whatever Happened To The Half Wave Dipole Fed With Coax?

from e-ham.net

I am an "old timer" licensed in the 1960's, and I probably think like one. Back then "store bought" antennas were usually the exception rather than the rule, especially on bands below 20 meters. When I read posts from HAMs asking why their G5RV does not work as expected, or how (and why) to install a radial system under a vertical, or why an inverted L does not work well, or what kind of "tuner" is needed to match a long wire, or why their OCF antenna has a high SWR, or how to feed a Super Duper Sky Buster, etc, I start to wonder.

When I read statements on this site and other sites about performance characteristics and claims made by some manufacturers of commercially produced HF antennas costing hundreds of dollars and the associated questions asked by HAMs who try to use them, I cannot help but think back to the good old days and wonder, "What ever happened to the half wavelength dipole (or the inverted V) fed with good quality 50 ohm coax?"

There are many reasons to use a half wave dipole on all bands, but especially on bands below 20 meters. Just a few reasons are listed below. I am sure there are many more. A half wave dipole presents a very good impedance match for modern solid state transceivers. A half wave dipole has a good operating bandwidth with respect to frequency. A half wave dipole does not require an antenna "tuner" to work efficiently. A half wave dipole does not require a radial system to work efficiently. A half wave dipole does not require a balun to

WCARC Weekly Net:
Tuesdays at 2130
147.18 & 444.475 MHz

Next Meeting
Breakfast

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6th
TIME: 9:00 am
PLACE: Couzin's Restaurant
Grand Rapids, OH

Net Check Ins

July 29

N8QMV (NC)
W8PSK
K8BBK
K8NEA
K8OVO
KA8VNG
KG8GZX ***(7)***

August 19

N1RB (NC)
N8POE/M-Sherman
N8QMV
K8NEA
WB8NQW
KD8BIN-John
KG8FH
KC8EKT
WD8JWJ
K8OVO
KA8VNG-Don
K8YLL-Dave
WB8VUL ***(13)***

August 12

K8OVO (NC)
W8PSK
KB8QEW
WB8VUL
K8NEA
KV8ZJW
WB8NQW,
KA8VNG
W8FU-Bruce
KD8GFC ***(10)***

WCARC

2 m/ 70 cm Net Control Roster

Net meets every Tuesday at 2130

Aug	**26**	**WD8ICP**
Sep	**2**	**N8QMV**
Sep	**9**	**WB8NQW**
Sep	**16**	**N1RB**
Sep	**23**	**K8OVO**
Sep	**30**	**WD8ICP**
Oct	**7**	**N8QMV**
Oct	**14**	**WB8NQW**

Brain Teasers

1. What frequencies within the 2-m band are reserved exclusively for CW operations?

a.) 146-147 MHz
b.) 146.0-146.1 MHz
c.) 145-148 MHz
d.) 144.0-144.1 MHz

2. A current of 2 amp flows through a 50 ohm resistor. What is the voltage across the resistor?

a.) 25 V
b.) 52 V
c.) 100 V
d.) 200 V

3. What is the "grace" period during which the FCC will renew an expired 10-year license?

a.) 2 years
b.) 5 years
c.) 10 years
d.) there is no grace period

September Contests

The contest lineup for the month of September is given below. Please note that the WARC bands (60, 30, 17 and 12 m) are never open to contesting.

Sep 6-7	*0000 to 2359 Z*	160 to 10 m
All Asian DX 'test		**SSB**
Sep 6	*1600 to 2400 Z*	6 m to 2 m
Ohio State Parks on the air		**all modes**
Sep 7-8	*1800 to 0300 Z*	160 to 10 m
Tennessee QSO Party		**all modes**
Sep 13-14	*0000 to 2359 Z*	80 m to 10 m
WAE(urope) DX 'test		**SSB**
Sep 13-14	*0600 to 2400 Z*	80 to 10 m
Arkansas QSO Party		**all modes**
Sep 13-15	*1800 to 0300 Z*	6 m on up
ARRL VHF QSO Party		**all modes**
Sep 20-21	*1600 to 2359Z*	160 m to 6 m
Washington Salmon Run		**all modes**
Sep 20-21	*1000 to 0400 Z*	160 to 10 m
Colorado QSO Party		**all modes**
Sep 20-21	*1300 to 2100 Z*	80 to 10 m
South Carolina QSO Party		**all modes**
Sep 27-28	*0000 to 2359 Z*	80 m to 10 m
CQ WW RTTY DX 'test		**RTTY**
Sep 27-28	*1400 to 20000 Z*	160 to 10 m
Texas QSO Party		**all modes**

Brain Teaser answers: 1-d, 2-c, 3-a

September Hamfests

Sep 7 ***Findlay Radio Club Hamfest*** Hancock County Fairgrounds, Findlay, OH. Contact: Bill, AD8P, (419) 369-4400. hamfest@findlayradioclub.org http://findlaywireless.com

Sep 14 ***Adrian ARC*** Lenawee County Fairgrounds, Adrian, MI. Contact: Marjie, KB8TMM, (517) 467-6303 maggie214@frontiernet.net http://www.w8tqe.com

Sep 28 ***Hamfest Assn. of Cleveland*** Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Berea, OH. Contact: William, N8LXY, (800) CLE-FEST http://hac.org

work efficiently. A half wave dipole (properly measured and cut) does not require an "antenna analyzer" to get it working. A half wave dipole does not require computer modeling software to get it designed and working. A half wave dipole is relatively quiet on receive. A half wave dipole can be built from scratch by the average HAM in half an hour or less. A half wave dipole can be built from brand new components for much less than the cost of a typical commercial antenna. A half wave dipole can be built (in a pinch) from scrap material, costing absolutely nothing. A half wave dipole at typical height (especially below 20 meters) does not really "care" what direction it runs.

A half wave dipole cut for 40 meters will also work on 15 meters. A half wave dipole cut for the upper end of 75 meters will also work on the lower end of 10 meters. A half wave dipole, properly constructed and installed, will have little or no change in performance or SWR in the rain. The legs of a half wave dipole can be (within reason) zigged and zagged to fit within the confines of a small lot without much (if any) noticeable loss in performance. A half wave dipole is easily supported by trees or a simple pole and some nylon twine. A half wave dipole will perform in the real world as well or better than most any single element commercially produced antenna, regardless of cost. The more things change, the more they stay the same.

73 Dick AD4U

DON'T FORGET!
10 meter informal net meets
each Sunday at 2030
on 28.335 MHz

The **P**ortage **C**ounty **A**mateur **R**adio **S**ervice, Inc. (**PCARS**)
announces the *first*

Ohio State Parks On The Air

2008

Ohio State Parks On The Air contest

Saturday, September 6, 2008, from 1600 UTC to 2400 UTC

There are *73* Ohio State Parks

Make a day of it and join us in the **FUN**!

A special entry allows clubs compete to see which club activated the greatest number of Ohio State Parks

PORTAGE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE

Visit a beautiful Ohio State Park and have some Amateur Radio Fun at the same time!

OHIO STATE PARKS — DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Rules? Entry Forms? Log Sheets? Ohio State Park Information?

Check out **all** the details at: http://parks.portcars.org

While you're at it, check out the PCARS web site at: www.portcars.org

12 April 2008

WOOD COUNTY ARC
P.O.BOX 534
BOWLING GREEN, OH
43402