



ARASWF

Newsletter



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August 2011

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**Next Meeting will be held on September 27th
2011 at 7.00pm at the Red Cross, Naples.
(No August meeting!)**

From the President's Shack

We have now made it through the first 2 months of Hurricane season. Now it looks like things are starting to heat up in the Tropics. I do have a weather station on the web. Just Google AA4GT and you will see weather conditions at AA4GT. It has a map on it so you can keep up with the bad thunder storms. Stay safe.

The lunch crowd is down until September 7th. We will start the lunches again the first and third Wednesday.

Hope to see you there.

Does anyone have a antenna for the Red Cross Building? It is 46.000 MHZ. We still have to erect it.

I hope everybody is having a nice summer. Our first meeting will be the fourth Tuesday of September.

Hope to see you there.

73 George AA4GT

Meeting Minutes

There was no Meeting held in July and thus, no Minutes! As noted above, the next meeting will be held in September.

New Members

None this month

News Items

from John (NSOI)

An Indoor Reduced Size Rectangular Loop

(Reproduced with the kind permission of the author, John F Reisenaur, Jr (KL7JR))

Ever hear of anyone adding coils to loops?

Sometimes indoor antennas are our only means of staying active with Amateur Radio. From the very first time I used an indoor loop, I liked the performance. Would I like one again?

I am on an end apartment on the top floor of a 14 story apartment building. This concrete building withstood the Alaska Earthquake of 1964, so it no doubt has a lot of rebar in it.

Rebar would cause a lot of interference I thought. Right? There is only one way to find out.

I spliced together some scrap speaker wire (photo 1 below) that I had to fit my living room wall 19 feet long by about 6 feet wide (just staying about a foot above the floor) and thumb tacked the wire to the sheet rock wall.

I did not even solder the splices or feed point connection (photo 2- the flower vase keeps my cat away!) which was one foot up from a lower corner.

I may install a balun later if I get tvi complaints.

Using the loop formula (1005 divided by frequency in MHz) I was just short of three-quarters WL on 20 meters. It would either work or not I thought.

I spent the first weekend testing the antenna which was actually quieter than I thought it would be with noise levels of S1-S2 when VE6FI answered my first call and gave me a 5x8 report. Then I worked VA7TT, JA7FTR, KH6LC, VE3EJ and several others on 20 meters and a few east coast stations on 17 meters as well.

With an ATU the loop works 10-20 meters and perhaps 40 meters as well! By the second weekend of casual DXing (early November 2009) with improving band conditions, I racked up 6 countries and 18 states. If I could hear them I could usually work them and the sent and received reports were the same 75% of the time.

I think I will leave the loop up awhile! The moral of the story: Indoor antennas do work, and sometimes very well!

Further experimentation update:
40 thru 10 meters like a charm!

It didn't load on 15 before the coils were added but does now.

Using a suggestion by VE8MN, I added the coils (Photo 3 below) to each vertical section of the loop.

It easily tunes on 15m now. The coil is about a foot long compressed and when stretched out measures 10-12 feet long.

I cut up a Slinky and added about 10-12 feet to each vertical section of my indoor vertical loop;

Voila- it worked! I'm loading 10-40m now. Don't forget to use a tuner, experiment and have fun. 73, John KL7JR



Photo 1-showing speaker wire thumb tacked to wall near ceiling



Photo 2- Feed point connection with flower vase standing guard...keep away Kitty!

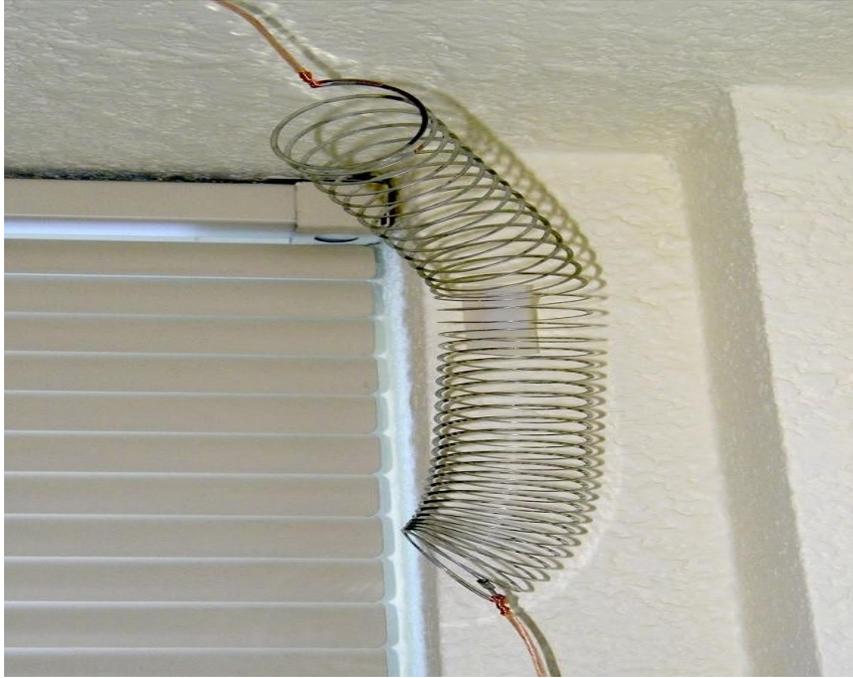


Photo 3- Showing the Slinky coils in one of the vertical sections.
2 are required, one for each vertical section.

Update February 2010

I removed the coils, added an air choke "ugly balun"(see picture below)



and extended the horizontal sections of the antenna by about 3 feet each (yes, I punched two holes in the living room wall and extended the antenna to the bedroom!) making the antenna 3/4 WL on 20m. It rocks on 20 and 17 meters, and loads 10-40m easily. No propagation above 17m to date so I can't comment. Here's what I've worked on 17 and 20m the past two months on a casual basis from Anchorage: VE7, VE6, VE5, VE4, VE3, VE1, KL7, KH6 (many), JA (many, all areas), UA0 (many) and SJ2 plus 40 some states! Who said indoor antennas don't work- hi hi! Can you imagine what this simple antenna would do installed outdoors? I love loops!

Not recommended for high power indoors for safety reasons!

Update: March 27, 2010

I've added XE1, 2, PY5, LP1, PR2,5 and I now have 45 states in my 20 meter log including baseball legend Joe Rudi NK7U and W1AW.

Still nothing heard above 17m when I check. No doubt I am enjoying vertical polarization at it's finest. I will try this antenna "outdoors" in the near future!

I know I'm amazed, but then.....

I love loops! KL7JR

Update March 28, 2011 - Now Operating from Dominican Republic



My vertical loop is now outdoors at 53 ft long and tunes 6-40m but doesn't like 15m. I'm amazed at what I'm doing with this simple antenna. I have modified it from the one earlier in this article.....No balun. No coils. Just direct coax connected.

Top is at 22 feet and bottom at about 12 feet off ground. Once we move upstairs to our condo, I'll be able to add 12 feet to both measurements!

See world maps with contacts made with vertical loop below!
Note, these are large files and will take some time to load with dialup connections! Close window to return to this page.

World Map with contacts made with vertical loop March, 2011
[Click Here](#) for map

[Click Here](#) for April and May, 2011 using about 63 feet total loop in length.

from George (AA4GT)

George has an original Vibroplex 1944 Standard Model that is currently away at Vibroplex being cleaned – he also has a 1954 and a 1956 Bug.



From David (KG4ZLB)

Last month I ran an article from John (NS0I) concerning Field Day showing a picture of John's antenna situated in his yard. Unfortunately the text to accompany that photograph was not reproduced and I wanted to rectify that this month! Thanks for your understanding John!

FIELD DAY 2011 "Condo Style"

First off let me say to anyone that says, "I can't get on HF because of antenna restrictions" that is just HORSE HOCKEY !!!! Stop making excuses and be adventurous and make an effort to get on the air. You may not be able to work the world, but you can still make some contacts.



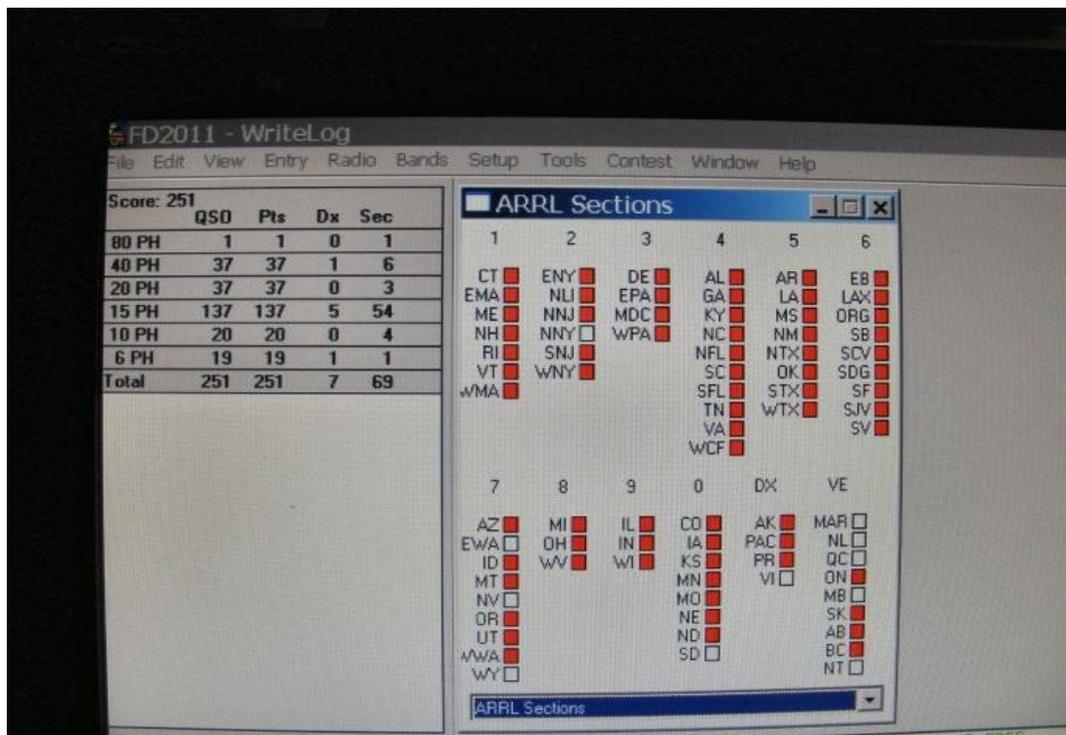
I decided to do field day this year from home. I needed to look at the rules to see just what class I could be and decided I could be 1B. That would work since I could use another person's

unit and a different antenna arrangement. I ordered extra hamsticks from Tower Electronics (Ft. Myers hamfest vendors) to make the dipole configuration for 10 thru 75 meters. The dipoles were mounted on a swimming pool rake handle 12 ft. long and placed inside the tripod mount. With the 4 ft. spacing the top one was about 16 ft. up and the other was 12 ft. high.

Since FD is mostly a US and Canada contest I decided to look for states for WAS. I only use LoTW for QSLing now so since I already have all 50 confirmed on 20 I would not put a lot of time on there. I have 50 worked but only 49 confirmed on 40 meters so I was looking there after dark. With 50 worked on 10 but only 45 confirmed and 47 worked with 40 confirmed on 15 that put 10 and 15 on top of my to work list. 6 meters was a bonus with 40 worked and only 34 confirmed so I would take whatever opened up. So up went the Hamstick dipoles on 10 and 15 and let the fun begin.

I made 251 Qs in 47 states. I got all US sections except NNY,NV,WY,EWA and SD. I never heard a NNY-Northern New York. I passed up the other 5 thinking I would get them Sunday. The highlight was probably working Alaska on 40 meters at 3:30 AM. I went to bed after that and slept till 11:00 AM so I missed 8 hours of operating time.

So you see that YOU CAN get on the air from a condo and work lots of stations and have fun doing it!



Trading Post

For Sale:

I have a Astron VS-50 power supply 0-15 volts and 0-50 amp output along with MFJ deluxe high current distribution box model (MFJ 1118) \$110. Thank you.

Frank Halas W4RBW

239-592-9969

For Sale:

Yaesu FT2600M 2m rig clean and still in the box - \$125.

Samlex SEC1235 30 amp switching power supply - less than 15 minutes use - \$65

Radio Shack HT "brick" amp. 1 watt to 15 watts - \$25

Tectronix 100 mHz analog O 'scope OK condx with probes - \$50

FT 1500M 2m rig great for packet - \$125 has AM WX.

Steve K4IM 239-389-0342

K4IM@ymail.com or tg9aws@ymail.com

For Sale:

MIRAGE VHF AMPLIFIER, Model B-2516-G, that puts out significant power with little input. Typically 5 watts in – 50 watts out; 10 watts in – 100 watts out; 25 watts in – 160 watts out. This is one of the most useful and versatile amplifiers available. Main features include automatic power shut-down circuitry for protection against high antenna VSWR, high temperature and excessive R.F. power input. The pre-amp includes an attenuator to reduce signal level, which is useful in preventing Receiver Overload and subsequent Intermodulation Distortion caused by strong signals.

Use this amplifier to give your handi-talkie a terrific signal boost, or your low-powered VHF base (or mobile) station an even greater increase in output power. Unit includes switchable Receiver Pre-Amp GaAsFet, Gain 21/15 dB Nominal, with noise figure less than 0.6 dB. Frequency range is 144 to 148 MHz. Modes FM, SSB, CW. Requires 13.8 VDC at 25 amps. Fused with 35-amp low voltage, fast blow fuse (internal).

This unit is in good condition. I purchased it used a few years ago, and rarely used it. I have tested it at 5/10/25 watts input, and amplifier operates to specification. Although rated up to 40 watts input, the VSWR protection trip and/or the input overdrive protection trip are too sensitive to handle power inputs above 25 watts. The Instruction Manual, which is included, describes how to set up the trip points, but I have not done so. The Instruction Manual provides instructions for Setting the Idling Current, Measurement of Insertion Loss, Tuning the Amplifier, Setting the Trip Points, and Adjusting the Receive Preamp, plus a Troubleshooting section, and full schematic.

This amplifier is offered for sale without warranty of any kind – THIS IS A FINAL SALE!

Price: \$100. Contact: Bob, W2HI, at w2hi@araswf.org



Club Information

Meeting Time: 4th Tuesday 7:00pm

American Red Cross
2610 Northbrooke Plaza Drive
Naples FL

Club Repeater: WB2QLP
146.670 (-600) PL 136.5
EOC Repeater:WB2WPA
147.030 (+600)

Club Web Site:

<http://www.araswf.org>

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