



Shark's Teeth



Sporadic Ham Radio Club
PO Box 591 - Getzville, NY 14068
www.k2fa.org

December, 2001



End of Year Issue

(Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!)



President's Letter

Dan Emblidge, W2HQ

HO HO HO Happy Holidays to all. Well the Vacation (DX-Pedition) in Florida went very well as far as vacations go. The DX part is another story. I did make a few contacts back on the HF side and a couple on the SAT's. But it was clearly evident that the main mission was "VACATION". Lots of sight seeing and eating massive amounts of food. The weather was great, in the 80's each day. Other than the Super Ball bounce landing back here in Buffalo, the flights (of which I am terrified of, and not terrified to say) were very uneventful and actually fun.

Well that leaves KA2KQP and KB2ZHX next up for a DX-Pedition. Oh where oh where might they go??

Merry Christmas to all and a very Happy & Healthy New Year to all.

73 de W2HQ

Web Radio

Pete Vetter, KF2U

Did you ever want to know what your signal sounds like on the other end? Occassionally, you might happen to QSO an OT running a Reel to Reel. The playback method is okay. But it is at the mercy of HIS signal and recording quality. The landline works as well. But a RX element isn't exactly BOSE quality.

Try logging onto one of the many virtual radio sites on the internet. I found several in Europe, Australia, various US cities, and Asia. A simple Yahoo search will give you a long list. If your browser supports JAVA, and you have Windows Media Player and/or Realplayer, you are good to go. I found this to be not only very cool, but a real resource as well. I recently logged into the Javaradio Illinois site at URL <http://illinois.javaradio.com>. A Java applet allows you to control the RX freq., mode, AGC, filter choice, and squelch from a simulated radio console. I tuned it to the 40 meter phone band and found a clear frequency to listen on. I tuned my rig to the same and threw out a QRZ. After a 12 second delay, my QRZ rang out through my PC speaker! The audio was surprisingly good. So I spent the next half hour trying different combinations of Mic settings, power levels, and antenna selections. Don't forget that this is a shared service. Ask if the rig is in use before you change the receiver settings. I can see how this would be great for checking propagation, to escape some local noise, or when working a weak station. The possibilities are many with this new 'Mode'.

I'm left with 2 lingering questions. Would the ARRL consider monitoring yourself via webradio a contact?

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And if so, does the QSL need a postmark?
73's.....Pete KF2U



Cheap! (Part I)

George Braun, KB2ZHX

Ok, now I know that we ham radio operators have a reputation, probably well deserved, for spending little to nothing for something that someone else no longer wants or needs. This is also known as 'Junk Collecting'. However, when I think of the word 'CHEAP', another connotation comes to mind... namely: 'Creative, Home-brew, Effective, Antenna Plans'. QSL, I won't buy it if I can build it! Therefore, we arrive at the topic of this month's article. As a Sporadic Ham Radio Operator and avid 'Scanner Nut', I am constantly on the prowl for better ways to avoid spending money on antennas. With that goal in mind, I give you:

'THE KB2ZHX UHF WIRE GROUND-PLANE DESIGN'

What's that? You say it's been done before? You bet! That's another thing I won't do... Re-invent the Mousetrap. However, even the best mousetraps can use a tweak or two now and again. The key goals for this project were low to no cost, minimum parts count, portability and since winter is approaching here in the northeast, an overpowering desire to avoid climbing up on the roof in winter. (I like to hang this one in the attic peak where it and I are safe and dry!).



Photo #1

This little beauty is constructed from some 12-Gauge wire I salvaged from a leftover piece of ROMEX™, a single SO-239 Connector, four 6-32 x 1/4" machine screws with matching nuts and washers, five crimp-on electrical eyelets and a piece of string.

(Ok, so the parts count got a little longer but that's what happens when you're improving on simplicity!)

Now, this antenna is easy to build, and can be fashioned to work well on several ham bands from 70cm to 1.2GHz. Above that and lack of physical size becomes a construction problem, and below that the ground plane will droop to near vertical, thereby eliminating your effective ground plane. (I hope to have a design for 2 and 6m in the January edition of Shark's Teeth). Photo #1 shows the TOP VIEW of the construction, while Photo #2 reveals the bottom. I chose to put a loop at the outside ends of the radials to keep from poking someone's eye out, namely my own. (Make sure you measure the length to the end of the loops for overall dimension.) The radiator is simply soldered into the SO-239, and its overall length is from the top of the electrical eyelet to the plastic insert of the SO-239 connector.



Photo #2

This one is for 70cm, in fact I specifically sized this one for LEO satellite reception, as that is one of my current interests. What are the dimensions you ask? Come on folks, you're supposed to know this as part of your licensing requirements, so I'm not going to spoil the fun for you here. However, if you are having trouble figuring it out, try the handy Antenna Wavelength Calculator on the SHRC Web site. For a simple quarter-wave, the radials will be about the same length as the radiator. That will get you close enough, and you can fine-tune the match by bending the radials down to between 30 and 45 degrees from level (See Photo #3). The actual calculated length of the radiator will be the center-frequency of operation for the antenna. It's fairly broad-band and should work well enough for local and repeater operation, and of course scanner reception.



Photo #3

So rummage around the old 'junk box', grab yourself a hank of RG-58U and relax in the comfort of your home, instead of sliding off of your roof! Next month, we make it bigger ('cause bigger is better? Well, for 6m anyway.)

73, Happy Holidays and cul.



No More "Amateur Radio Trader"

From ART website

Amateur Radio Trader will no longer be published November 21, 2001

TAP Publishing Company has ceased publishing Amateur Radio Trader, effective with the Second November Issue, which mailed on November 20.

This was a difficult but necessary decision, due to the combined effects of the Internet on our print edition (the primary source of our web content), and the economic climate. ART is no longer a viable product for us. We are redirecting the company's resources into other areas.

The Second November Issue of ART will remain posted here on our web site through December 9, 2001. Please accept our sincerest apologies for any inconvenience.

Thank you for your support. We have enjoyed serving you, and we wish you continued good luck with your ham radio interests.

73,

Barbara Patterson, KF4MVB Editor

Editorial

Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP

Another edition of "Shark's Teeth". As I look back on the past year and what we have accomplished as a club, I have to say that I am very impressed. We have club activities that everyone is active in, a website that has had approximately 1500 hits (not all of

them are me ;) , and this newsletter. Everyone has contributed to making the SHRC fun to be involved in.

Thanks a lot!

SHRC Net

Mike Bucklaew, KA2KQP

Because the SHRC members all have different interests in ham radio, a survey was conducted to see if there was a common band/mode combination that would enable us to convene a net. It appears that 6 meter FM is common to everyone in the club. I would like to propose that some experiments be conducted to see if we all could hear each other on 6 meter FM simplex.

The 6 meter FM simplex frequencies are: 52.125 - 52.400 - 52.490 - 52.510 - 52.525 - 52.540. 52.525 is the national calling frequency. 52.490 seems far enough away for us. In keeping with the sporadic nature of our club, lets not set a regular schedule for the net to meet but rather try to get together sometime.

160 meter Contest

from ARRL

This weekend (December 7-9) is the ARRL 160 meter contest. This is probably a good way to check out the old (or new) antennas before winter sets in.



From ARRL

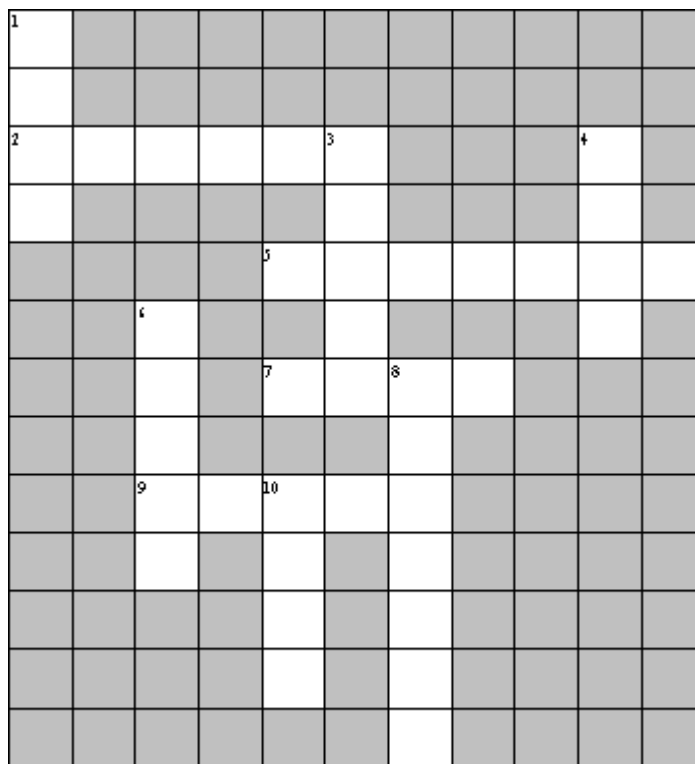
Anthrax Scare impacting outgoing DX QSL volume:

With one month to go in 2001, ARRL Outgoing QSL Service Manager Martin Cook, N1FOC, reports that his bureau has handled 1,716,940 cards from January 1 through November 30 of this year. That's 54,960 cards ahead of the same date last year. "However, the volume of cards coming in for processing has slowed drastically since the recent

anthrax scare," Cook said. "I was hoping to make the 2 million mark this year, but it's not looking good. We will be lucky to beat last year's total." The more than 1.7 million figure so far in 2001 includes cards going to US incoming QSL bureaus and cards sorted and mailed by contractor. The Outgoing QSL Service handled 1,868,895 cards during 2000.

ARRL Approves Afghanistan Operation

The ARRL DXCC Desk reports it has received acceptable documentation for YA5T in Afghanistan and has approved it for DXCC credit. Afghanistan is among the top 10 "most wanted" countries. The license, which authorizes operation on all bands--including 6 meters--was issued by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan government that's still recognized by the United Nations. YA5T will be operated by Peter Casier, ON6TT, as well as by Mats Persson, SM7PKK, Robert Kasca, S53R, and Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW. All work for the UN World Food Program. YA5T will be on the air as their schedules permit. The DXCC documentation is for contacts made on or after November 20, 2001. No other call signs or operations have been approved. For more information, visit the YA5T Web site managed by Bruce Richards, WD4NGB <http://www.qsl.net/ya5t/>.



Created with EclipseCrossword — <http://www.eclipsecrossword.com/>

Hamword Puzzle

Across

2. CW FD exchange
5. TS
7. FOUR
9. Younger KF2U

Down

1. Pete's grid in Montanna
3. FT
4. IC
6. RONCO
8. Radiating Element
10. Useless

Answers will be available on the SHRC website after January 1, 2002. Check the Newsletter page.