

Y ankee A mateur R adio N ewsletter

May 2007

Yankee Club Meeting

FOR MEETINGS AND LOCATIONS, PLEASE ASK ON ANY NET DURING THE WEEKS PRIOR TO ANY HAMFEST IN MAINE FOR THE YANKEE CLUB MEETING AND UP TO DATE INFORMATION.

THE ABOVE POSTED MESSAGE SUBMITTED FROM W1LWT.



Secretary's Report, April 21st, 2007

**The Man that keeps the great Link Repeater System running.
KQ1L – Dave Hawke**

We held the April Meeting at the Portland Amateur Wireless Associations Hamfest (PAWA) at the Stewart Morrill American Legion Hall in South Portland.

Those in attendance were: Martin Engstrom, N1ARY; Dan Engstrom, KB1FIG; Bob Gould, N1WJO; John Goran, K1JJS; Cory Golob, N1URA; Gary Gilman, N1ZNJ; Lee Trask, W1LWT; Dave Wood, KB1FGG; George Drisko, KB1AQE.

Meeting Minutes

1. The Secretary's Report was read and accepted
2. The Treasurer's Report was read and accepted
3. We Discussed the status of the cookbook, particularly the need to find "Filler" articles to disperse in various locations of the cookbook . These should be non technical articles for the purpose of fostering an interest in ham radio.
4. We will hold the May meeting on the 18th at the Great Wall Restaurant in Augusta
5. We will hold the June meeting at the Bangor Hamfest in Hermon, Maine. We will then possibly caravan over to Seadogs in Bangor for a hearty lunch.
6. We held a drawing for a (If memory serves me correctly) an Extra class license manual. John Goran, K1JJS won out of an impressive 9:1 odds. we then adjourned the meeting and left the room shaking our heads and trying to ascertain just exactly how John had rigged winning the drawing a second year in a row! ;-)

73's Dan Engstrom, KB1FIG

UPDATE! There will be no meeting in May, it has been canceled due to a training exercise for Oxford County ARES

'Rabbit ears' find new life in HDTV age

Buying an antenna for a high-definition television seems as out of place as using a rotary phone to make a call. But some consumers are spending thousands of dollars on LCD or plasma TVs and hooking them up to \$50 antennas that don't look much different from what grandpa had on top of his black-and-white picture tube.

They're not doing it for the nostalgia.

Local TV channels, broadcast in HD over-the-air, offer superior picture quality over the often-compressed signals sent by cable and satellite TV companies.

And the best part? Over-the-air HD is free.

"Eighty-year-old technology is being redesigned and rejiggered to deliver the best picture quality," said Richard Schneider, president of Antennas Direct. "It's an interesting irony."

A few years ago, Schneider started an assembly line in his garage and sold antennas out of the trunk of his car. Now his Eureka, Mo.-based company has seven employees and did \$1.4 million in sales last year. He expects revenue to double in 2007.

"People thought I was nuts. They were laughing at me when I told them I was starting an antenna company," Schneider said.

Before cable and satellite existed, people relied on antennas to receive analog signals from local TV stations' broadcasting towers. Stations still send out analog signals, but most now transmit HD digital signals as well. (Congress has ordered broadcasters to shut off old-style analog TV broadcasts by Feb. 17, 2009.)

Consumers who can get a digital signal from an antenna will get an excellent picture, said Steve Wilson, principal analyst for consumer electronics at ABI Research.

One major difference with a digital over-the-air signal is it doesn't get snowy and fuzzy like the old analog signal. Instead, the picture will turn into tiny blocks and go black.

"You either get it or you don't," said Dale Cripps, founder and co-publisher of HDTV Magazine. "Some people can receive it with rabbit ears, it depends where you are."

Schneider recommends indoor antennas only for customers within 25 miles of a station's broadcast tower. An outdoor antenna will grab a signal from up to 70 miles away as long as no mountains are in the way, he said.

The Consumer Electronics Association has a Web site <http://www.antennaweb.org/> that tells how far an address is from towers and recommends what type of antenna to use.

"When you're using an antenna to get an HD signal you will be able to receive true broadcast-quality HD," said Megan Pollock, spokeswoman for the group. "Some of the cable and satellite companies may choose to compress the HD signal."

Compression involves removing some data from the digital signal. This is done so that the providers will have enough room to send hundreds of other channels through the same cable line or satellite transmission.

The difference in picture quality is a matter of opinion, said Robert Mercer, spokesman for satellite provider DirecTV Inc.

"We believe the DirecTV HD signal is superior to any source, whether it's over-the-air or from your friendly

neighborhood cable company," Mercer said.

Others disagree.

Self-described TV fanatic Kevin Holtz, of suburban Cleveland, chose an antenna because he didn't want to pay his satellite provider extra for local broadcast channels.

Holtz, 30, can't get the signal from one local network affiliate or a public broadcasting station but said the rest of the stations come in clearer than they would through satellite. He uses a \$60 antenna for a 40-inch Sony LCD, which retails for about \$3,000.

"Over-the-air everything is perfect," Holtz said.

Another downside to using just an antenna is that only local channels are available, meaning no ESPN, TNT, CNN or Discovery Channel. Some consumers partner an antenna with cable or satellite service.

Many people aren't aware that they can get HD over the airwaves, Wilson said. He estimates there are 10 million households with HDTVs and that fewer than 2 million of them use antennas. Including homes with analog sets, 15 million of the 110 million households in the United States use antennas.

HD antenna prices range from \$20 to \$150 for indoor and outdoor versions. The many models of available indoor antennas look more like a fleet of spaceships than the rabbit ears of old. Brand names include Terk, Philips, Audiovox, Jensen and Magnavox.

Those really interested in saving a buck and who have a little MacGyver in them could make their own antenna. Steve Mezick of Portland, Ore., created one out of cardboard and tinfoil.

"I decided to build it because the design looked exceedingly simple. I scrounged up stuff around the house and put one together," said Mezick, a bowling alley mechanic who repairs pin spotters.

The 30-year-old has since upgraded his original design using a wire baking sheet, clothes hanger and wood. He mounted it to the side of his house and gets all of his local stations.

"It works brilliantly," he said.

—

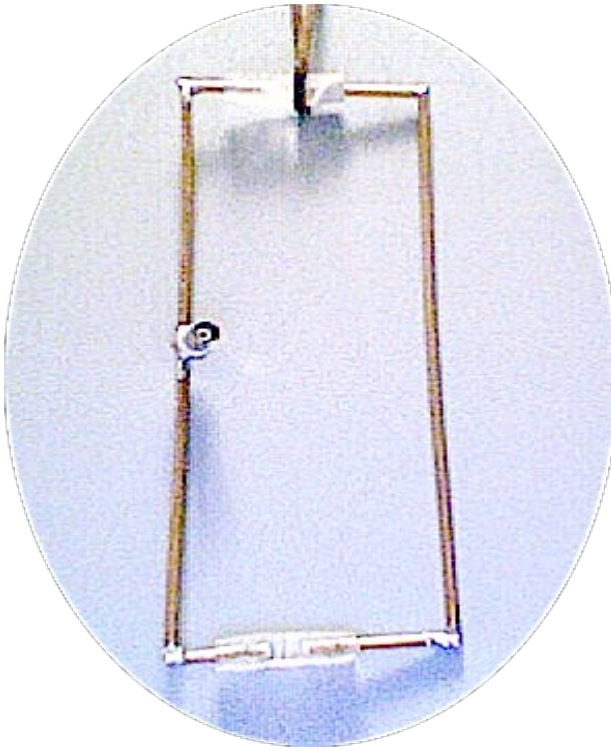
On the Net:

<http://www.antennasdirect.com>

Moxon antenna

70 cm moxon made from 6 gauge wire

The Moxon antenna (invented by Les Moxon (SK 2004), G6XN) is sort of a two element [yagi](#) with the elements folded and spaced to eliminate the need for an impedance match. The moxon can be further simplified by also eliminating the yagi's boom support.



A carefully optimized and constructed moxon can easily exceed the gain and bandwidth of a sloppily designed and constructed yagi. Also, the moxon is smaller than the typical yagi and much smaller than the typical [J-pole antenna](#).

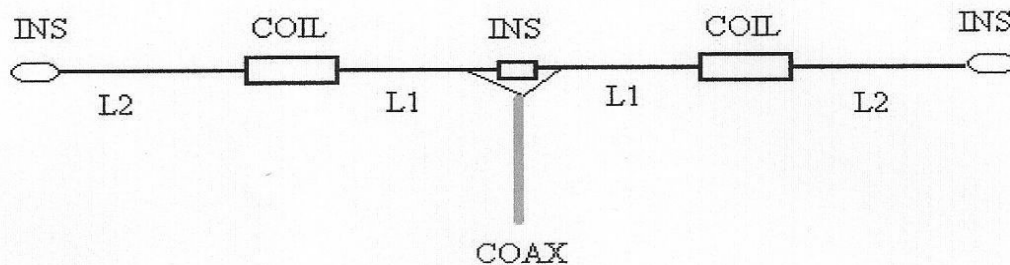
This design is based on [L. B. Cebik, W4RNL's Moxon model](#) (see calculator at the end of the linked page). Note that wire diameter is critical. If you use something different, recalculate the values.

We are also working out the details of a copper pipe version of this. Hard part to find for both antenans is the spacer between the elements.

A lot more information on this antenna can be found at http://www2.mmae.ucf.edu/wikj/Moxon_antenna#construction

A SHORT DIPOLE FOR 80m

4S7NR



The antenna above has been described by Nadisha, 4S7NR and may be of interest to anyone wishing to get on 80M (3.5MHz) that have limited space available.

L1 is 12 feet. L2 also is 12 feet and the overall length is 48 feet.

The two loading coils are described as 67.83uH and can consist of 104 turns of insulated wire, wound over 3.5 inches. The coil diameter is not stated however. Maybe it will be a case for experimentation here.

On The Air Nets (Updated May 9th)

Sunday – 12 County Net.
(starts between 9:30 – 9:45 am.)
Central Maine Swap Net. 7:30 pm.
TRI-County ARES VHF traffic Net. 8:00 pm.

Monday – Oxford County Ares Net. 7:00 pm
(except on the first Monday.)

Tuesday – Maine ELMERS Net. 7:00 pm.

Wednesday – WAWA Net. 7:30 pm.
SKYWARN Net. 9:00 pm.

Thursday – SOUTHERN AROOSTOOK NET 7:00pm.
YL & OM Net 8:00 pm.

Friday – Slow Scan Net 7:30 pm.

Saturday- SKYWARN Net 7:30 pm.

Repeater List

146.880 Streaked PL 100.0
146.850 Dixmont PL 100.0
146.820 Camden PL 100.0
146.670 Augusta PL 100.0
147.000 Lincoln PL 100.0
145.350 New Sharon PL 100.0
146.670 Topsfield PL 100.0
146.970 Sugarloaf PL 100.0
145.170 Island Falls PL 123.0
146.180 Sanford PL 100.0

Officers of Yankee Club

President – George Drisko – KB1AQE
Vice President – Lee Trask – W1LWT
Secretary – Dan Engstrom – KB1FIG
Treasurer – Marty Engstrom – N1ARY
Yarn Editor – Lee Trask – W1LWT
Yarn Printer – Phil Reynard – W1PAR
Yarn Setup – Harold Hartley – N1LLU
Web Page Maintenance – Robert Gould
N1WJO

SSTV Frequencies

2meters – 145.500 FM
6meters – 50.680 USB

PSK31 Frequencies

2meters – 145.550 FM
2meters – 144.144 USB
6meters – 51.120 FM
6meters – 50.290 USB

Common Packet Frequencies:

145.01, .03, .05, .07, .09

Other Frequencies for Packet:

144.91, .93, .95, .97, .99

145.51, .53, .55, .57, .59

145.61, .63, .65, .67, .69

145.71, .73, .75, .77, .79

This Months 6 Local Repeater's

Naples 146.835 (-) 103.5 PL
Sumner 146.790 (-) no PL
Mexico 146.910 (-) 100.0 PL
Hiram 147.015 (+) 103.5 PL
Saco 146.775 (-) 82.5 PL
Alfred 145.410 (-) 103.5 PL

Hamfest for 2007

Deerfield, NH May 4 - 5
Hermon, Me June 2
Union, Me July 14
Alexander, Me Sept 15
Deerfield, NH Oct 12 - 13

Packet Frequencies

Packet can be used for keyboard to keyboard communications as well as other uses too.

Two Meter Simplex Frequencies.

146.400***, 146.415, 146.43, 146.445, 146.46, 146.475, 146.49, 146.505, 146.52 National Simplex Calling Frequency, 146.535, 146.55, 146.565, 146.58, 147.42, 147.435, 147.45, 147.465, 147.48, 147.495, 147.51, .147.54, 147.555, 147.57

*** The Frequency 146.400 Mhz is used in some areas as a repeater input.

[Http://www.bloomington.in.us/~wh2t/](http://www.bloomington.in.us/~wh2t/)

Any articles and entries, please send to Yarn Editor by the 15th of each month to W1LWT@ARRL.NET or to address on the back of the Yarn. Anyone that wants a e-mail version of the Yarn, please e-mail W1LWT to address above.

Any updates to membership, please send to address on membership form.

W1LWT
Lee Trask
91 Upland Rd
Lisbon Falls, Me 04252

stamp

Yankee Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Membership Application

Date _____
Renewal ___ New Member ___
Full(\$20) ___ Family(\$30) ___ Associate(non-voting)(\$15) ___
Last Name _____
First Name _____
First Name _____
First Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____
Email Address(es) _____
Are you an ARRL Member? (The Yankee Club is an Affiliate Club) _____

Call Sign _____
Call Sign _____
Call Sign _____

Please make your check payable to:
Yankee ARC, Inc.
Then mail the completed form with your enclosed check to:

Martin D Engstrom, Jr
227 West Fryeburg Road
Fryeburg Me 04037-9603