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WAVELENGTH

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Scarborough Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
www.ve3we.org

PARTICIPATE – LEARN – ENJOY

December 2012 Volume 6 Issue 9

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SARC Nets

Sunday	28.730 MHz
	CW 10:00 AM
	SSB 10:30 AM
Tuesday	147.060 MHz (VE3RPT)
	7:30 PM
	Alternate frequency
	146.520 MHz simplex
Thursday	28.730 MHz
	SSB 7:00 PM
Saturday	14.125 MHz
	SSB 10:00 AM (VE1EBK)

Everyone is invited to check in on CW before the nets start.

These are open nets. All licensed hams are welcome. Come and join us.

We also want to emphasize that 28.730 MHz is our calling frequency. Please monitor and/or call your friends. 7:00 PM is a good time.

Club News

SARC held elections for the 2013 Board of Directors and Executive Panel on December 10, 2012. All of the 2012 executive members stood for re-election, except for Tony Tiongson VE3FDU who stepped down as membership coordinator. There were no other nominations, so the remaining members were all acclaimed.

We would like to wish all our members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Distracted Driving Legislation

As you are probably aware, amateur radio operators have been given an extension from the distracted driving legislation enacted in 2009 until June, 2018. The current exemption expires December 31, 2012.

It might be an idea to carry a copy of the relevant regulations with you in case you are stopped by an unaware police officer.

It's dealt with in the Display Screens and Hand-Held Devices Regulations, O. Reg. 366/09. The extension to 2018 was made through Ontario Regulation 253/12: http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2012/elaws_src_regs_r12253_e.htm .

A link to the Display Screens and Hand-Held Devices Regulations, as amended, can be found at http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_090366_e.htm . The amendments, coming into force, are listed in gray below s. 13.

As well it would be advisable to carry a copy of your Certificate of Proficiency.

Just thought you would like to know.

Feel free to redistribute.

73,

Stan, VE3TW

KB6NU builds an end-fed, half-wave antenna

I've always been interested in end-fed, half-wave antennas before, but until this recently, I'd never built one. One of the reasons for this is that most designs are for QRP antennas and not made to handle more than 5 – 10 W of power.

A couple of months ago, though, I ran across a design rated at 100 W (http://earchi.org/proj_homebrew.html). The design seemed relatively simple to build, requiring only a single toroid and a capacitor made with a short length of RG-174 coax. Well, it just so happens that I bought 100-ft. of RG-174 at Dayton this year, and I found the toroid cores online from the "Toroid King" for a very reasonable price, so I decided it was high time to build one.

All told, the parts cost about $10, the biggest part of that being a 4-in. x 4-in. x 2-in. plastic junction box (Carlon E989NNJ-CAR) I got from Lowe's for $6.41. Compare that with the $60 that LNR wants for their end-fed antenna.

I put up the antenna about three weeks ago, on a beautiful fall Sunday, running 34 feet of wire up a trellis attached to a small deck in my backyard, then out to a tree near the back of my lot. With more than a little anticipation, I put the antenna analyzer on it, only to be somewhat disappointed with the readings. The SWR was 2.6:1 at 14.000 MHz, dropping to about 1.5:1 at 14.900 MHz.

Since the internal tuner on my IC-746PRO is supposed to be good to 3:1, I did use it and made a couple of contacts. A guy in MA even gave me a 599 signal report. So, while I was a little uncomfortable with an SWR so close to the limit of my tuner, it did seem to radiate pretty well.

I e-mailed the guy who published the design and asked why he thought the resonant frequency was so high, and he said that all I had to do was add a couple feet of wire to the antenna. I also did some more reading about end-feds and several websites suggested that adding a counterpoise might be a good idea, too.

A week later, I finally got back to playing with the antenna. I added 24-in. of wire to it, and it did indeed bring down the SWR of the antenna to below 2:1 in the CW portion of 20m. I'm happier with this. I made a couple of contacts that day, too, with both stations giving me good reports.

I still do plan to try a counterpoise. Not so much to improve the SWR, but to see if it makes the antenna a little more efficient.

Overall, this has been a fun project. I learned something about end-fed, half-wave antennas and saved a bunch of money by rolling my own. Isn't that what ham radio is all about?

When he's not messing with antennas, Dan, KB6NU publishes the "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides. The latest in this series is the No-Nonsense Extra Class License Study Guide. For more information, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.