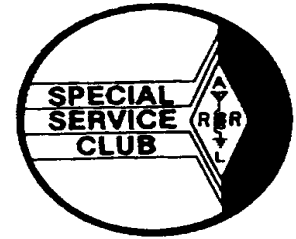




THE HAMCALL



The Official Newsletter of The Kentucky Colonels

Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Call: KY4BG
Bowling Green, Kentucky

Web page: [tp://www.angelfire.com/ky/kcarc/](http://www.angelfire.com/ky/kcarc/)

Volume 47

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



President Mike McClure
KW4MAC

Hello Everyone,
If you are interested in the HF region of the radio spectrum, then you're probably interested in propagation and the daily changes in the ionosphere. Well, just this month NASA has unveiled a "4D" computer model displaying in real-time the current state of the ionosphere based on solar activity and atmospheric conditions. You can get started touring the ionosphere by visiting <http://spaceweather.com> and select the May 1, 2008 issue from the ARCHIVE section.

Don't forget to let John Coe know if you wish to help with the Tour de Cave event coming up June 7. Hopefully John will give us more information about the event and our role at our May meeting. And it's time to start planning for the 2008 field day. Let Don Bush know if you would like to volunteer.
Take care.
Mike McClure
KW4MAC

Sec-Treas Report

By Claire Rinehart, KF4L-WX

No report submitted

DX /Contest Report-

Those interested in VHF and higher

VHF Contest June 15 & 16

ARES Report-

No report submitted....

**Following is a short paragraph on CERT training
By Dick Schultz (KJ4CMC)**

What is CERT?

CERT is a training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family, and your neighbors in the event of a disaster. During an incident, emergency service personnel may not be able to reach everyone right away. By getting trained in CERT, you will have the skills to help emergency responders save lives and protect property.

Participants learn how to:

- Identify and anticipate hazards
- reduce fire hazards in the home and workplace
- extinguish small fires
- Assist emergency responders

- Conduct light search and rescue
- Set up medical treatment areas
- Apply basic medical techniques
- Help reduce survivor stress

Check out www.citizencorps.gov for more information

Contact Janarae Conway at the health department for training classes.

781-8039 x155

It's Antenna Time

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Here in Michigan, the daffodils are blooming and the birds are singing. That means only one thing--it's antenna time! Since my lot is a city lot and not really suited to towers, I mostly play around with wire antennas. Currently, I have a random wire for 80m, a wire ground plane for 20m, and a 40m/30m "fan dipole" that also loads up on 15m and 10m. This year, I want to experiment with two new wire antennas—a horizontal loop and Windom antenna.

The "Loop Skywire"

The concepts behind the full-wave loop antenna have been known for many years, but the antenna has become more pop-

ular after the publication of the article, "The Loop Skywire" in the November 1985 issue of QST. This article is available as a PDF from the ARRL website, if you are a member (<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/tis/info/pdf/8511020.pdf>).

A lot more information is available on Internet. Just Google "loop skywire," and you'll find hundreds of references.

Basically, the antenna is a full-wave loop of wire for the lowest band that you wish to operate. For 80m, that would be about 272 feet. For 40m, the length will be 136 feet.

Ideally, you'd like to set up the loop so that the area inside the loop is at its maximum. This occurs when the loop is a circle.

Unfortunately, that's usually impractical. From a practical point of view, most guys shoot for a square configuration using four supports.

Another consideration is how to feed the antenna. The Loop Skywire article calls for a coax feedline, but the practice these days seems to favor ladder line. The reason for this is that the SWR on bands higher in frequency than the band for which the antenna was cut can be quite high. Coax is quite lossy when the SWR is high, but that's not the case with ladder line.

How does it perform? Well, it's been my experience that guys with loop antennas often have the strongest signals here at

KB6NU. And they seem to get through even when band conditions are poor. Guys who use them also report that they are great DX antennas as well. So, all things considered, it sounds like it's worth a shot.

The Windom Antenna

The Windom antenna is an antenna that I've just become familiar with. It's intriguing because, like the loop antenna, it is also a multi-band antenna.

The Windom is a half-wavelength antenna, but instead of feeding the antenna in the middle as you would a dipole antenna, you feed it about 1/3 of the way from one of the ends. At this point, the feedpoint impedance is about 200 ohms. With a 4:1 balun, you can feed it with 50-ohm coax.

The interesting thing about this antenna is that the feedpoint impedance is 200 ohms not only on the fundamental frequency, but it's close to 200 ohms on all harmonics of that frequency. So an antenna cut for 40m, will also have a feedpoint impedance close to 200 ohms on 20m, 15m, and 10m.

You do need a 4:1 balun for this antenna to operate properly. Fortunately, these are not difficult to make. I made one a couple of years ago, just for fun (<http://kb6nu.com/even-more-fun-with-baluns/>). Now, I have an application for it!

There's all kinds of information on the Net about the Windom antenna as well. One of

the Web pages I found most useful was written by W8JI (http://www.w8ji.com/windom_off_center_fed.htm).

I certainly have my hands full this antenna season. Whatever you decide to put up, remember to be safe.

When Dan isn't thinking about antennas, he's operating CW on the HF bands or teaching ham radio classes. He's just published a printed version of his No-Nonsense Tech Class Study Guide. See his blog, www.kb6nu.com, for more details.

NEXT KCARC CLUB MEETING: May 16th 7 pm BG Police Dept. Community Room Program- ?????

Upcoming Activities Dayton Hamfest - May 16,17,18

May 31st Ole KY Hams dinner Mamouth Cave Hotel Dinner 6:30 pm cdt

Tour de Cave Bike-a-thon June 7th. See John Coe KY4COE who is coordinating radio coverage.

Field Day- June 28 & 29 Details not provided for inclusion in this issue.

**Traders Net -
Each Monday 1900 cst
147.33 rpt. Tone 107.2
KCARC Net -
Each Tuesday 1900
cst
147.33 (PL 107.2)**

**4th ARES NET MEETS 7
NIGHTS A WEEK
AT 9 PM LOCAL TIME. Fre-
quency: 147.165
MHz. W4WSM Repeater.
Secondary
Frequency: 147.330 MHz.
PL Tone 107.2
KA4CFW Repeater**

**ITEMS OR WANT ADS FOR
HAMCALL - DEADLINE IS
THE 10TH OF EACH MONTH.
SEND To: HANK CANTRELL
- W4HTB
905 WRENWOOD DRIVE
BOWLING GREEN, KY
42103**

OR EMAIL: w4htb@insightbb.com

For Sale:
80ft. Rohn 45 tower
Contact Rodney KI4LRY
270-657-2418

HF Vertical Cushcraft R-
7000
Contact Jean KE4WVX

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