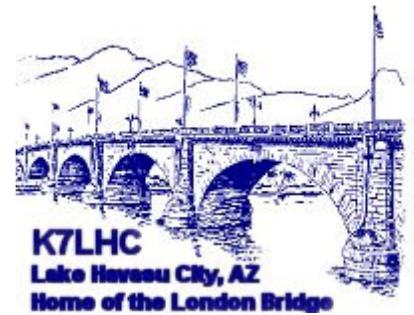


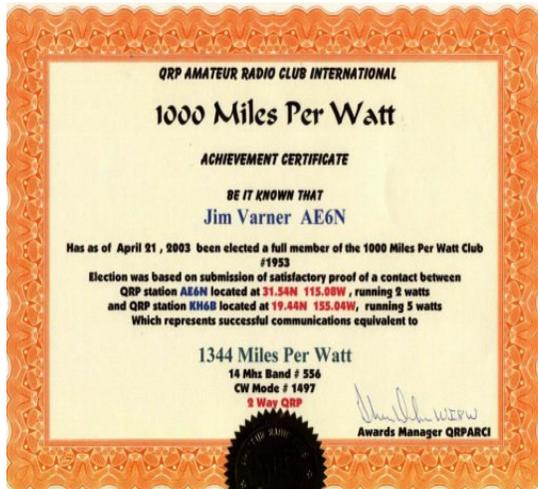
# STATIC



October 2004

## A PORTABLE 20-METER ANTENNA

Jim Varner AE6N



As summer draws nearer, outdoor activities start occupying our thoughts. A simple, inexpensive, and lightweight antenna that can easily be set up and used while camping is the quarter wave vertical made with 18 gauge wire. With two watts, I consistently worked the east coast and Hawaii and qualified for the **1000 Mile Per Watt Certificate**.

It is a simple quarter wave vertical with six radials and the mast is a 20-foot fiberglass pole purchased from World Radio for \$20. The length of the antenna and radials are calculated using the formula:

$$\text{Length} = 234 / \text{frequency in megahertz}$$

The radials are important. A quarter wave vertical with four radials is only 55 percent efficient. As an example, if you applied 100 watts to the antenna, only 55 watts will be radiated. The more radials you have the more efficient your antenna will be. I sometimes use eight radials in a contest.

Select one of the quarter wave wires for the radiating element. On one end tie a small loop. This loop will hold the antenna at the top of the mast letting the wire hang down the side of the mast. At the other end connect this wire to the center of a female coax connector a loop of wire on the shield side of the coax connector. This loop performs two functions: one to keep the vertical wire from flopping around the mast and also is used to connect the radials to the antenna (See illustration). Connect alligator clips to one end of each radial and attach each radial to the loop. Stretch each radial out on the ground to form the ground plane.

There you have it. The antenna can be set up in just a couple of minutes and will be a good performer. (and it is very portable – ed.)



## Notice: October and November LBARA Meeting Changes

Don't forget that the October (10/21/04) and November (11/18/04) LBARA meetings will be held at the VFW at the normal time (7:00 PM). The VFW is at 266 London Bridge

### 2004 London Bridge Days Parade

It is that time again. We are looking for a few good amateurs to help out with communications for the London Bridge Days Parade. This year's parade is scheduled for Saturday October 30. Those volunteering will gather at the Bank of America parking lot on the corner of Acoma and McCulloch at about 6:30 AM. The parade participants will start gathering and getting into position around 7:00 AM. The parade will start at about 8:30 and should be over by around noon.

We intend to use the clubs second repeater (146.640, PL 156.7) for the event, so you will need a 2-meter HT. So if you can spare a few hours on Saturday morning October 30<sup>th</sup> (from about 6:30 to noon), give Victor Lopez-KC7QEK (453-1069) or Bruce Hunt-N6BRH (453-1946) a call and let them know.

### Monday Night Net (7 PM)

System	Location	Freq	Offset	PL
MCARS	Bullhead City	145.27	-	131.8
	Kingman	146.76	-	131.8
	Kingman	448.25	-	131.8
	Lake Havasu	146.61	-	131.8
	Willow Beach	147.12	-	131.8
CRRA	Lake Havasu City	146.96	-	162.2
	Lake Havasu City	224.24	-	156.7
	Lake Havasu City	449.95	-	141.3
BARN	Lake Havasu City	447.54	-	136.5
	Las Vegas, NV	449.95	-	136.5
	Onyx(Palm Springs)	449.34	-	136.5
	Orange County, CA	447.54	-	100

### IDIOTS IN FOOD SERVICE

My daughter went to a local Taco Bell and ordered a taco. She asked the person behind the counter for "minimal lettuce." He said he was sorry, but they only had iceberg.

### LBARA MEETING SCHEDULE

MONTH	BOARD	REGULAR
SEPTEMBER	9/14	9/16
OCTOBER	10/19	10/21
NOVEMBER	11/16	11/18
DECEMBER	12/14	12/16

### IDIOT SIGHTING #1

When my husband and I arrived at an automobile dealership to pick up our car, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's side door. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked. "Hey," I announced to the technician, "it's open!" To which he replied, "I know - I already got that side."

### IDIOTS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

I live in a semi-rural area. We recently had a new neighbor call the local township administrative office to request the removal of the Deer Crossing sign on our road. The reason: "too many deer were being hit by cars" and he didn't want the deer to cross there anymore.

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## Are You An Alligator?

Is this the chant of some new movement or some arcane greeting between two members of an unusual club? No, it is neither. It is a question that one ham could ask another though. Do you know what it means? Not knowing could be good as that could indicate that you are not one. However it could be bad as well. So what does it mean?

The dictionary defines an alligator as a large reptile having sharp teeth and powerful jaws. Another feature of the alligator that is omitted in that definition is that the alligator appears to have no ears. To look at it a different way, you could describe an alligator as something with a big mouth and no ears. Does this description fit anyone you know? No one around here I'm sure, but perhaps someone we've heard in our travels. I would presume that this description was applied to a ham when someone would pick up their microphone and start talking before bothering to see if the frequency was already being used, thereby acquiring the characteristics of someone or something having a large mouth with which to talk but no ears with which to listen.

To avoid being thought of as an alligator, always listen before you transmit. Check your squelch and check your volume. On HF, ask if the frequency is in use before transmitting. I know that these are all common sense rules and that you and I always follow them, but perhaps we can pass this along to someone else who could use it.

73 de N6BRH (Bruce)



### For Sale

Like new RV. Outfitted for the discriminating ham radio operator. Take this baby on your next mountain-topping contest. Tower and beam included.



### N7HVK & KK7CX at the Kingman Hamfest

Wonder how they carried anything home?

# IOWA HAM IS BPL INTERFERENCE "POSTER CHILD"

Cedar Rapids, who has suffered severe broadband over power line (BPL) interference for more than two months. A formal complaint to FCC Enforcement Bureau Chief David H. Solomon The ARRL has weighed in on behalf of Iowa amateur and ARRL member Jim Spencer, W0SR, of calls on the Commission not only to order Alliant Energy's BPL field trial system to shut down but to fine the utility \$10,000 for violating the Communications Act of 1934 and FCC Part 15 rules. Alleging "ongoing harmful and willful interference to one or more licensed radio stations," the ARRL asked Solomon to intervene "on an emergency basis." ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who signed the letter of complaint, said Alliant Energy has been aware since March 30--the date it installed Amperion BPL equipment in Spencer's neighborhood--that the BPL system was causing harmful interference.

"It's simply unacceptable for Alliant Energy to continue to cause interference while they're trying to solve the problem," Sumner said. While the utility has been cooperative, mitigation efforts have been only marginally successful. The BPL system continues in operation, Sumner notes, despite repeated requests to eliminate the interference or shut the system down.

The complaint cites the Commission's own Part 15 rules prohibiting harmful interference from the operation of an unlicensed intentional,unintentional or incidental radiator to a licensed radio service. "If harmful interference is caused, the radiator may not operate," the complaint says. "There is simply no room for interpretation that would lead to such harmful interference being permissible for any period of time--certainly not 10 weeks."

The letter of complaint summarizes and culminates a series of exchanges and actions in an unsuccessful effort to resolve Spencer's BPL interference. Sumner said the League got specifically involved in Spencer's case after United Power Line Council <http://www.uplc.org> President William R. Moroney invited the League in mid-March to keep his organization in the loop on any cases of BPL interference that were not being satisfactorily addressed. When Spencer's case arose, Sumner said, the League considered it "a good place to start."

Among other approaches, Alliant Energy has tried notching out the HF amateur bands. After notching attempts in late May, Spencer--a retired engineer and former Collins Radio employee--still reported "significant levels" of BPL interference on some bands and power line noise on 160 meter and 80 meters.

"The situation in Jim's case is egregious, and it's been going on for 10 weeks," he said. "If this is the best we can expect when a BPL system causes interference, then the only answer is to prevent them from being deployed."

The letter of complaint calls on the FCC to notify Alliant Energy "immediately to cease operation of their BPL devices in accordance with §15.5(c), and to follow up that notification with a Notice of Apparent Liability."

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND HAMFESTS**

**Superstition Fall Hamfest** – December 4, 2004 at the Mesa Community College

**Westfest** – January 15, 2005 at the Glendale Community College

**Yuma ARC Hamfest** – February 19, 2005 at the Yuma Arizona Fairgrounds

**Williams ARRL State Convention** – July 7-10, 2005, Williams Arizona

### **FOR SALE**

**Kenwood 2m TM241A**

**Astron 35 Power Supply**

**2— Larson Antennas**

**\$250 (Package Deal Only)**

**Bob Parker— KI7LO**

**680.4841**

### **FOR SALE**

**ICOM 2800H**

**Dual Band Mobile w/mounting  
bracket for face**

**Excellent Condition**

**Ray Jones—N7KRD**

**928.757.4081**

### **IDIOT SIGHTING #2**

The stoplight on the corner buzzes when it's safe to cross the street. I was crossing with an intellectually challenged coworker of mine when she asked if I knew what the buzzer was for. I explained that it signals blind people when the light is red. Appalled, she responded, "What on earth are blind people doing driv-

### **IDIOT SIGHTING #3**

At a good-bye luncheon for an old and dear coworker who was leaving the company due to "downsizing," our manager commented cheerfully, "This is fun. We should do this more often!" Not a word was spoken.

For additional information, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site.

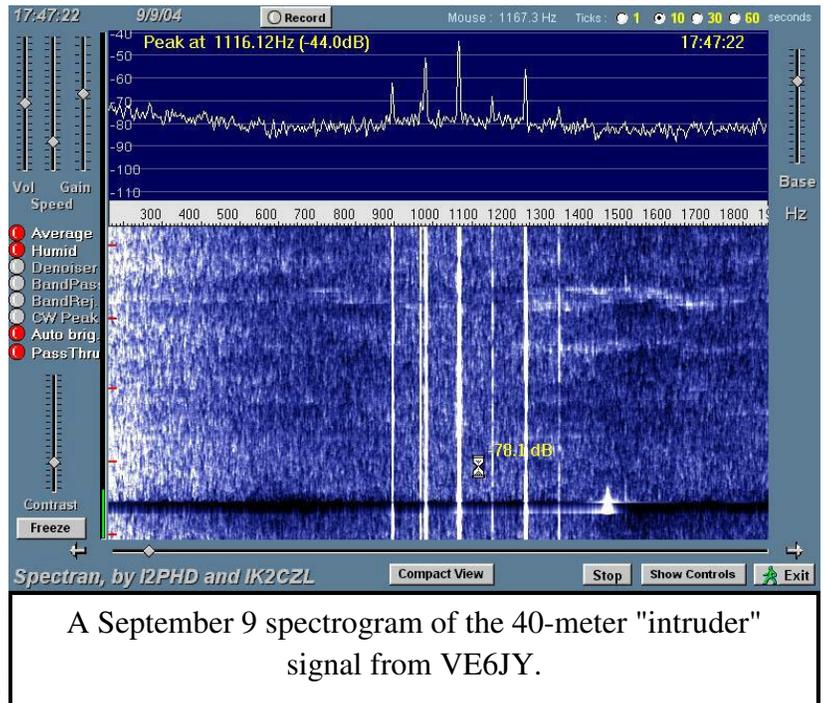
# "Intruder Signal" on 40 Meters Disappears

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 17, 2004-- The odd and unidentified signal that had been reported showing up on the 40-meter phone band on or about 7238 kHz has disappeared just as mysteriously as it arrived earlier this summer. Numerous amateurs in the western US and Canada had reported hearing the signal over a period of a few weeks.

The FCC's High Frequency Direction Finding Facility in Maryland, which had narrowed down the signal's source as somewhere east of Prescott, Arizona, was unable to hear it at all during the day and evening watches on September 16. Earlier FCC monitoring had indicated the "buzz" was centered on 7238.1 kHz with a bandwidth of about 1 kHz and consisted of series of discrete signals spaced at about 90 Hz apart.

According to an FCC HFDF staff member, a radio amateur in Camp Verde, Arizona, who had reported hearing the signal at nearly 40 dB over S9 a week earlier said it suddenly disappeared, and no one in that area has heard it since. The FCC said the amateur had indicated the signal's presence had generated a lot of discussion on a local repeater. The FCC offered no firm opinion on the signal's source.

Don Moman, VE6JY, in Alberta, took a couple of spectrograms of the signal. Bob Gonsett, W6VR, reported that engineers at Communications General Corp (CGC) looked at the intruder September 6 found "several close-spaced CW carriers."



The 7238 kHz signal is not the only apparent intruder reported on 40 meters. Bob Reynolds, KD5PSH, in New Mexico, has told ARRL that he still hears--or recently has heard--signals at approximately 7.020, 7.077, 7133, 7126, 7170 and 7246 kHz. He says the signals resemble the one that had been heard on 7238 earlier in the month, which he described as "a powerful signal with a mix of tones."

Stations with reports on these or other unidentified signals in the amateur bands should send them via e-mail to [International Amateur Radio Union](mailto:International Amateur Radio Union) Region 2 Monitoring System Liaison Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, [cskolaut@arrl.org](mailto:cskolaut@arrl.org).

## Directors to Step Aside; Balloting Set In Three Divisions

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 24, 2004--Two members of the ARRL Board of Directors are not seeking new terms this fall, and there will be an election to fill one of the vacancies. Southwestern Division Director Art Goddard, W6XD, who's held the seat since 2002, announced earlier this year that he would not run for the 2005-2007 term. Rocky Mountain Division Director Walt Stinson, W0CP, also has decided not to seek another term after serving since 1998.

"We will miss Art and Walt, who have contributed enormously to the League's success during their tenures," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who is secretary of the Board of Directors.

Seeking to succeed Goddard is Southwestern Division Vice Director Tuck Miller, NZ6T, of National City, California, who will face off against Richard J. "Dick" Norton, N6AA, of Topanga, California. A DXer and contester, Norton competed at the 2002 World Radiosport Team Championship and is a pioneer in computerized contest log checking.

Rocky Mountain Division Vice Director Warren G. "Rev" Morton, WS7W, of Casper, Wyoming, is unopposed to replace Stinson in the top job. Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is unchallenged in his bid to succeed Morton. Milesosky, who turns 25 this October, will be the youngest person in recent memory to serve as an ARRL Vice Director. He was the 1999 winner of the ARRL Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award.

Edward J. Stearns, AA7A, of Scottsdale, Arizona--a DXCC Honor Roll member and past chair of the ARRL Contest Advisory Committee--is unopposed for the Southwestern Division Vice Director's seat that Miller is vacating to run for Director. Stearns and Miller faced off for the seat in 2001.



**An election will decide who will replace outgoing Southwestern Division Director Art Goddard,**

L.B.A.R.A  
P.O. BOX 984  
LAKE HAVASU CITY  
ARIZONA 86405

# STATIC

## ATTENTION READERS

Please note that this issue represents a “work-in-progress” and there are a number of changes to be made in subsequent issues. I would greatly appreciate your comments, both good and bad, as well as any suggestions for future issues. This issue also begins our first attempt to deliver the **STATIC** to your doorstep electronically. Please keep me abreast of any email address changes you may have and I promise to have this delivered promptly and accurately. Also, I still have a number of articles awaiting publication and will do so in the future. This is your newsletter, so keep the articles, letters, and pictures coming. I can be reached at home (855.7941), at work (855.3081) or via email at [grf@uneedspeed.net](mailto:grf@uneedspeed.net) .

## EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** List your items for sale here. Ham radio related only, please. Include a picture if you like (please use a jpg format). Email all to me at [grf@uneedspeed.net](mailto:grf@uneedspeed.net) along with your name and phone number.

