



Western Tidewater Radio Association

"HAMTOWN WAVE"

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PO Box 323 Smithfield, VA 23431-0323 <http://www.wt4ra.org>

NEXT CLUB MEETING AUGUST 11, 2008



Officers and Committee Reports

Vice President (w4pro)

WESTERN TIDEWATER RADIO ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING

MONDAY AUGUST 11, 2008

Now is the time of year for cookouts, pool parties, and most any other excuse for getting together and having fun. It is also time for our next quarterly meeting which will be a time for rehashing Field Day and taking care of any business issues that need to be addressed by the membership. Hopefully, that part of the meeting will be brief.

HERE'S THE PLAN.

Linda, W7PRO, and Jim, W4PRO, will be hosting the meeting at their home starting at 2230 UTC (6:30 PM).

The WTRA treasury will furnish hamburgers, hot dogs and rolls. Just bring a dish to share and your partying duds. Please let us know if you are coming and what you are bringing so we can plan accordingly. Paper products, condiments, tea, lemonade and sodas will be furnished.

THE PROGRAM

A video documenting the 2007 DXpedition to Scarborough Reef will be shown after dinner near the pool, if weather permits. Otherwise, we will just move inside and continue the festivities.

A word or two about the video. Scarborough reef is an uninhabited group of (small) rocks in the South China Sea that somehow met the criteria required for it to be listed as a separate country on the ARRL's Countries List. Once on that list, it became an absolute necessity for any and all serious DX operators to get a QSL card from Scarborough for contacts on as many bands and modes as possible. But due to the logistical problems and expense of mounting a DXpedition there, it stayed near or at the top of the DXCC countries list for many years. The 2007 DXpedition was a multi-national effort that included operators from several countries and a small army of support personnel back home. In eight days of operation, the sixteen operators made approximately 46,000 contacts. Doing the math, that's one contact every fifteen seconds for 192 hours. The pileups were incredible, everyone realizing that a future DXpedition to Scarborough would not offer another chance for many years to come. This video illustrates the extremes to which people will go in the name of competition. I wish I could have been with them.

The video is on loan from the Virginia DX Century Club in Virginia Beach.

Treasurer's Report (by W4RBH):

Main Account Balance as of 7/20/2008	\$ 1325.01
Remaining budgeted expenses for 2008	\$ 414.58
Recent expenses:	
Field Day	\$ 45.49
VE Program Account Balance as of 7/20/2008	\$ 160.03

Membership Report (by W4RBH): Currently there are fifty-two members on roll. Everyone please welcome our newest member Ray Haring, KJ4FEX. Ray's QTH is Windsor, VA.

Repeater Report (by W4RBH): The WT4RA repeater (147.195+), remote base, and packet node system continues to function normally. Members are encouraged to check-in to the weekly net sessions each Thursday at 7:30 PM.

Plans are in the works to add the new Franklin 147.270+ repeater to the remote base memory list. The frequency has been checked and verified that it will not cause interference to the public service radios at the repeater site. All that remains is to resolve a programming issue and the new frequency will be ready for use.

Field Day QSL Update (by W4RBH): Following this year's Field Day, I went to www.eqsl.cc and registered the WT4RA call sign. This is one of those things that I should have done some time ago, but I finally got around to it this year. We actually had over 100 e-QSL's waiting for us. Most of these were for past Field Day contacts dating back to 2001. I also created an e-QSL card for WT4RA, shown on the right, and had it certified as "authenticity guaranteed". The "authenticity guaranteed" allows those that receive our card to count it towards the various awards. Chris, N4KIT, has uploaded the log file from this year's Field Day so hopefully we will get a few more e-cards back soon.



Here is how the cards we have received so far break down. We have 28 states confirmed, 3 countries, 4 CQ zones, and 47 call sign prefixes.

Of the 128 e-QSL cards received so far all but 2 are from past field day contacts as follows: 2001 (10), 2002 (10), 2003 (4), 2005 (31), 2006 (20), 2007 (30) and 2008 (21 – as of 7/20/2008). The remaining 2 e-cards were from contacts made at the July 2007 W4P event at Chippokes.

In past years we have received a few QSL cards by mail, and have responded with cards similar to the one shown on the right. So far this year no field day cards have been received at the club P O Box.



Field Day Report

Well the dust has settled, the rigs returned to normal operation, the bodies are rehydrated and the Field Day Entry has been made. WTRA made a respectable showing. Thanks to the efforts of several hardy souls, we totaled 375 QSOs, made of 200 phone and 100 cw contacts, for 950 QSO points. The public information efforts during Olden Days netted another 670 bonus points for a grand total of 1620 points.

Thanks to everyone who helped.

Lyle - KI4WKT



WANTED

One tower climbing belt, good condition. For use on Rohn 25G type tower.
Contact Joe-WC4R at 747-345-0976 or wc4r@wc4r.com

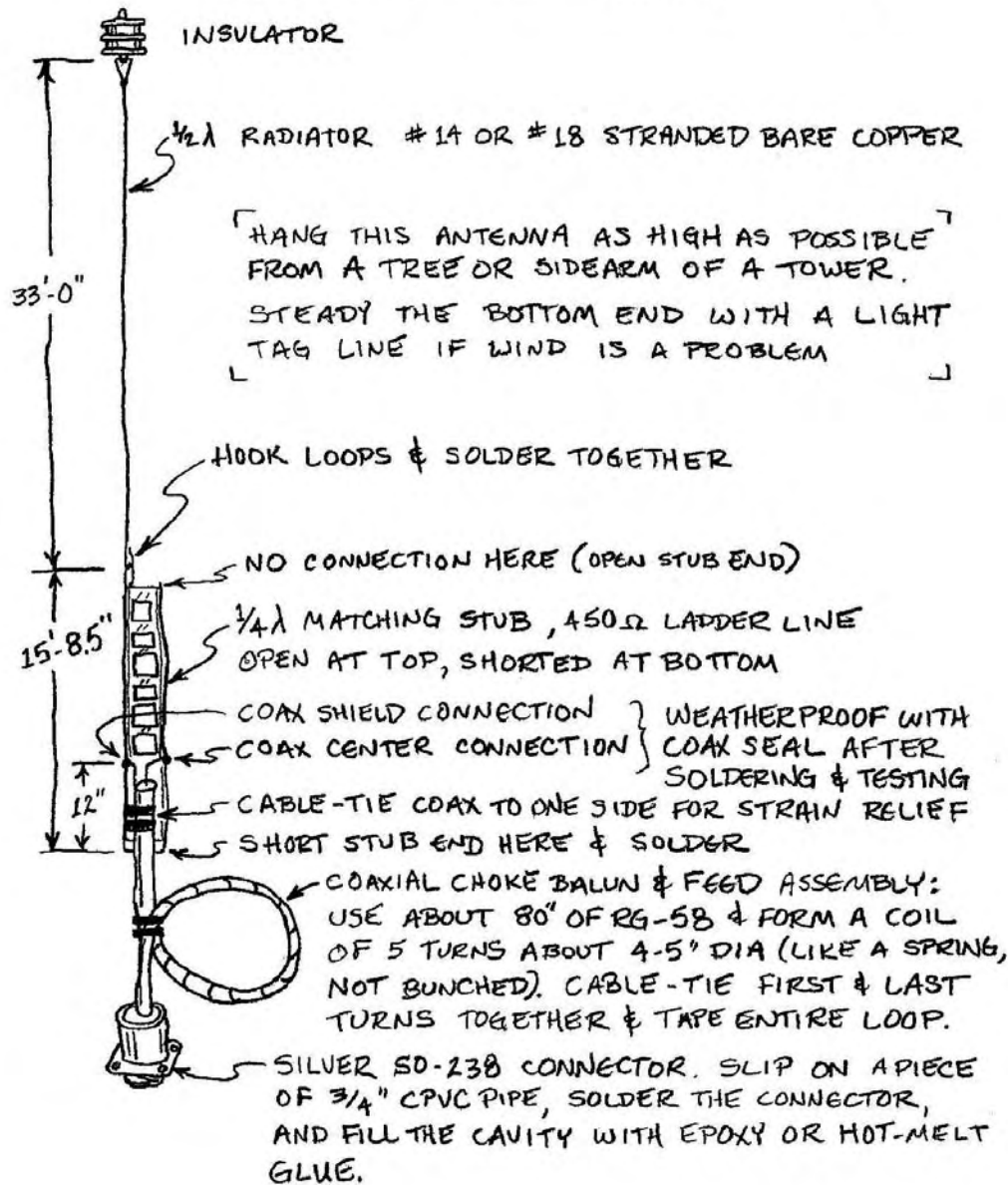


The following antenna design was supplied by Joe Roth (WC4R)

Here is a "hang it from the tree 20 meter j-pole project plan"

20 METER WIRE "J-POLE"
FOR 14.2 MHz
(VERTICAL, END-FED 1/2 WAVE)

WC4R



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