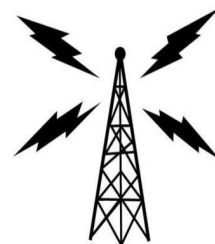




DFARG Signal



Stealth Antenna

Many of us face complications in erecting an efficient HF antenna. Maybe it is a restrictive Homeowners' Association covenant. Cost might be a factor. Possibly, your spouse is not keen on erecting antennas in the yard or attaching them to the house. Regardless, there are a few solutions that will enable you to get on the air cheaply, clandestinely, and with reasonable expectation of success in making DX contacts. In fact, I got my DXCC with indoor antennas, mostly at the depths of the last solar minimum. My solution was the old reliable wire dipole. Simple, cheap, and easy, the half-wave dipole can outperform significantly more expensive compromise antennas. I suspended two in my attic, one as a half-wave at 20m and one as a half-wave at 10m. The first worked very well on the 20m band and reasonably well on the 30m and 40m bands, while the second worked satisfactorily on the 10m, 12m, and 15m bands. There are a number of considerations involved in employing a wire dipole in the attic. Obviously, if your roof is metal, you're doomed from the start. Getting half a wavelength off the ground while remaining stealthy is diffi-

cult for the 20m band and next to impossible for 40m. Radiation pattern for 20m is mostly perpendicular to the long axis of the wire, with significant nulls of the ends. In my case, I was able to get into the attic of my two-story house and run both antennas the whole length of its long axis, just a few inches below the peak of the roof at 27' above ground level, or just short of a half wavelength on 20m. Because the long axis of my house was oriented roughly north-south, this gave me excellent radiation to Europe and the West Coast. Since I already had a couple of spools of 14-gauge primary wire in the garage, I used that for the antennas. My soldering skills were pretty much non-existent when I built them and I was worried about the strain on any joint I DID solder, so I used Budwig center connectors to construct both



dipoles and connect them to my feed lines. They came from eBay with a couple of robust insulators each for the ends. I used them without a balun, just coiling up about 8 turns of feed line below the connector and holding them together with a zip tie. Total cost for each antenna was probably around \$30, though the price of wire and the connectors have increased in the last eight years. This solution was near perfect in a two-story attic with a long axis over 66'. Last year, though, I moved into a single-story home

with a free room over the garage (FROG). No longer did I have a 66' straight run, 27' above the ground. The FROG gave me a few access points to the attic, one of which provided a long enough run for the 20m half-wave, but only about 12' off the ground. I ran both antennas in that space and, not surprisingly, while I still got decent performance from the 10m half-wave on 10m, 12m, and 15m, performance on the 20m band was sketchy and on 40m, downright miserable. My new house backs into a large, wooded area where I could erect any number of hidden antennas, but as my shack had to be in the FROG for matrimonial reasons, I was looking at feed lines of 130' or more. It wasn't the expense of that much Bury-Flex, that deterred me from this option as it was the pain in the ass of digging it all in. Then I realized that the gable in the front of the house, entirely decorative, loomed over the FROG. Getting into it entailed some thrilling moments of nearly crashing through the ceiling into

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Important Notice:

Scouts in the shack on October 18.

RSVP ASAP for Holiday dinner

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Upcoming Regional Hamfests and Conventions

10/18/2025 - Savannah Hamfest and Swapmeet
Location: Savannah, GA
Sponsor: Coastal Amateur Radio Society

10/18/2025 - Winston-Salem Hamfest
Location: Winston-Salem, NC
Website: <http://w4nc.com>

10/25/2025 - Hazard Hamfest
Location: Hazard, KY
Sponsor: Kentucky Mountains Amateur Radio Club

10/25/2025 - Helena Tailgate
Location: Helena, AL
Website: <https://www.helenahamfest.com/>

10/25/2025 - Wiregrass ARC - Fall Tailgate
Location: Headland, AL
Website: <http://w4dhn.org>

11/01/2025 - Bahia Shriner's Tailgate
Location: Apopka, FL
Sponsor: Bahia Shrine Amateur Radio Unit

11/01/2025 - EPARS Tailgate/Hamfest
Location: Dade City, FL
Website: <http://eparsonline.org>

11/01/2025 - 11/02/2025
Stone Mountain Hamfest, ARRL Georgia State Convention
Location: Lawrenceville, GA
Website: <https://stonemountainhamfest.com>

11/08/2025 - Montgomery Hamfest
Location: Montgomery, AL
Website: <https://w4ap.org/>

11/08/2025 - SPARCFest
Location: Pinellas Park, FL
Website: <https://www.sparc-club.org/sparcfest/>

11/15/2025 - Amateur Radio Festival & Tailgate
Location: Trenton, FL
Website: <https://www.qsl.net/w4dak/>

September Meeting Minutes

The September Business Meeting was called to order by President Rick S. Officers present where VP. Charlie, Secretary Smitty and Treasurer John. The Tech Talk was bypassed to make way for an open forum to discuss issues that was faced by members of the club concerning individual issues being experienced. One of the discussions learning CW. The webpage LCOW.net was recommended for individual learning. The site uses the Koch method of learning code where you can set the speed of the received code and the use of letter, number and punctuation via groups of letters, numbers and punctuation or a mix of the above groups mixed together. This method is highly recommended by most trying to learn coded. It is recommended to do this for approximately 15 minutes a day until it becomes easily to

hear the "melody" of the code. Several of the members have used this method to learn code. There was also a discussion concerning rf feedback and RFI in vehicles. There were several points talked about. In the shack the use of ferrite chokes is a must along with good station grounding. For the elimination of RFI in the car it was highly recommended to wire the transceiver directly to the battery and the use of ferrites or common mode chokes. This discussion was the first of its type for the club and was very interesting and informative. Club Health and Happiness: Members who had birthdays and anniversaries were recognized. The past months business meetings notes were approved and seconded. The treasures report was given. The total income for the club will be after a deposit to be made will be total of \$4729.98 in the bank. The VE Report: The next day of testing will be October 4th.

The following was mentioned that VE Testing numbers were falling which appears to be related to the time of year. We have no signups for the next session but the doors will be open for anyone interested in testing or upgrades. The VE group was applauded for their efforts to expand our fascinating hobby. Old business was discussed. A reminder to all club members that they need to remember that October will be a busy month for the club. Our club's first tailgate on October 11th and we still need volunteers to help with its operation. Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) will be October 18th and volunteers are needed to mentor and support the Boys and Cub Scouts. Being there was no other business to be discussed a motion was made seconded that the meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming DXpeditions:

Formatting the ADXO for inclusion in Publisher has run into a few snags that I cannot easily overcome. Please go to the following link for the current schedule:

<https://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html>

Ham Humor



Upcoming Contests

October		November	
18-19	<u>10-10 INTL Fall CW</u>	1	<u>Silent Key Memorial</u>
	<u>NY QSO Party</u>	1-2	<u>UK/EI SSB</u>
	<u>Worked All Germany</u>		<u>ARRL Sweepstakes CW</u>
	<u>Stew Perry Topband</u>	8-9	<u>10-10 INTL Fall Digi</u>
19-20	<u>IL QSO Party</u>		<u>JIDX Phone</u>
20-24	<u>ARRL School Club</u>		<u>SKCC Weekend Sprintathon</u>
25-26	<u>CQ Worldwide SSB</u>		<u>OK/OM CW</u>
		15-16	<u>South America CW</u>
		15-17	<u>ARRL Sweepstakes SSB</u>

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the living room, but I found there was just enough room to hang my 20m half-wave as an inverted vee, as there was a random 2x4 sticking out from one of the gable rafters, almost 24' off the ground. After about a dozen failed attempts with a weighted line, I was finally able to haul my center connector up to the rafters. While not achieving a half wavelength in altitude, I am able to capitalize on the more omnidirectional radiation pattern of the inverted vee. There are very expensive compromise antennas available for those of us with restrictive HOA covenants or unwilling spouses, and if you're not spry enough to get into your attic, or you've got a tin roof, or you live in an apartment, they may be your only choice. But

attic antennas in single-family homes with wood and shingle roofs are cheap and effective alternatives.

License Examinations

The next exam session is November 15, 0900 at the shack,