



W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

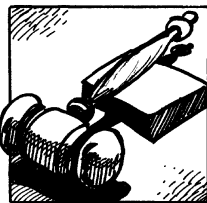
Helena, MT

John McDougall K7JM – Editor

December 2005

From The Pres...

According to my calculations, this is the 36th article I've written for the W7TCK



newsletter as your president. I'm feeling both relief and sadness that I'm finally through with writing an article each month for the newsletter. On one hand it's been a difficult thing for me to come up with something new and interesting each month for this article. Some articles I succeeded in finding something new, and sometimes not. And more than once I've had to pound through writers block at the last minute. Not having to worry about the article each month will definitely be a relief. And I'm sure that our newsletter editor will enjoy not having to deal with my procrastination every month (including this one).

On the other hand, knowing that this is my last article brings home the fact that my tenure as your president is about to end. For this, I feel some sadness. I wish I could continue, but as many of you have seen and realized, the amount of

.(Cont. P.2 PRES)

DECEMBER MEETING

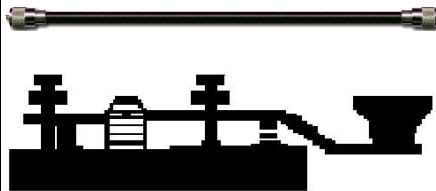
Monday

December 5

Salvation Army Church

1905 Henderson

7:00 pm.



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Board of Directors

- Pres: Forrest Christian, AC7DE
- Vice Pres: John Curry, K7EBL
- Sec.: Rich Weddle, N7GC
- Tres.: Dan Stinson, KC7KKH
- Newsletter Editor: John McDougall K7JM
- Training: John Geach, KS7R
- Technical: Don Heide, W7MRI
- Volunteer Exam Team Leader: John Geach, KS7R

DUES...

Dues are due for the year 2006. Dues are \$20 a year and help the club with its costs. CCARC has participated in many events during 2005, has an MCU, a repeater, equipment, and this newsletter all of which takes \$\$ to maintain, supply, run, etc. Thank you for paying your dues early.

(Cont from P.1 PRES)

time I can dedicate to those tasks a president needs to do has been dwindling – and CCARC really needs a president which can dedicate the necessary time to the position.

With this in mind, I am excited for the future of CCARC. I am extremely pleased with the slate of officer candidates which have stated their willingness to run for office next year. Assuming the elections go as I expect them to, I expect great things out of CCARC in the coming years. In many ways, having such a great slate of officers lined up makes my stepping down easier.

As this is my final article as your president, I would really like to take this last opportunity to thank in writing all of you who have participated in any way with any club activities over the past 3 years. There are far too many people to thank individually – so I won't even try to name names. Each of you are important to the ongoing survival of the club. For your continued support of the club, I am grateful.

Before I finish, there are a few housekeeping items regarding December's meeting: First, I would like to apologize for my complete forgetfulness in regards to the meeting in November. I'm not sure whether it was because of where the meeting landed in the month (which made it feel like the second Monday instead of the first), or if it's my increasing (but not yet old) age, or if it was related to my nightmarish schedule that week, or even a combination of all three, but somehow I forgot all about the meeting until it was too late. If you showed up and I didn't, I'm truly sorry.

Second, as most (all?) of you know (and as I eluded to above), we will be having elections during the December Meeting. In addition, awards are traditionally given out at this meeting, including the Ham of the Year award. This is arguably the most important meeting of the year. Please try to attend if at all possible. And yes, I'll be there.

Finally, we traditionally collect donations for the Salvation Army during the December meeting. In addition to them providing us a meeting place, the Salvation Army is also a good cause worthy of a donation. Cash and/or check donations will be

accepted and passed on to the Salvation Army. If you need a receipt for tax purposes, write a check and include a note with it and the Salvation Army will mail you a receipt.

I think that's all.

73
Forrest
AC7DE

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN>>

With the holiday season approaching, red kettles and tingling bells are once again common throughout town.

That means it's time to think about a contribution to the Salvation Army.

They do a great job in our community and throughout this country when people need help. They are also most generous in providing CCARC with meeting and testing space.

Please consider giving a monetary donation to The Salvation Army at our December meeting. If you can't be at the meeting, then send it to them by mail. It will be appreciated and will be put to good use.

73.. Bob K7HLN



From The Editor

Thank you to all our great club members that contributed to this newsletter in the last year. I started going back through the back copies to generate a list of all you contributed, from “for sale” ads to multipage columns. The job became overwhelming, and I would probably forget someone, so I must just say again, THANK YOU! You make my job a lot



easier and more interesting. It is fun to read what other club members are up to, what project they just finished, what they have accomplished. If you would like to share with the club some of your Ham Radio experience, I would love to hear from you. I know the other members would too.

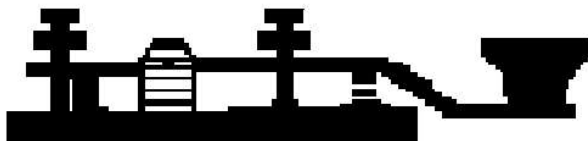
I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving week end. I certainly did, and had a good time with friends and family as we remembered what we are thankful for. Now the Christmas season has started. Our tree is up (I kid you not!) and the decorations are transforming the house. Let us remember those less fortunate than us this Christmas. One good way, is to give a donation to the Salvation Army. Please, consider this at our December club meeting. In addition to all the good they do, they provide a great meeting spot for us.

Our December meeting holds our annual officer elections. Try to attend this all important meeting as several offices are open up to new nominees.

I hope and pray that your Christmas is merry and bright. And don't forget that Jesus is the real reason for this great season.

Merry Christmas and God bless to you all,

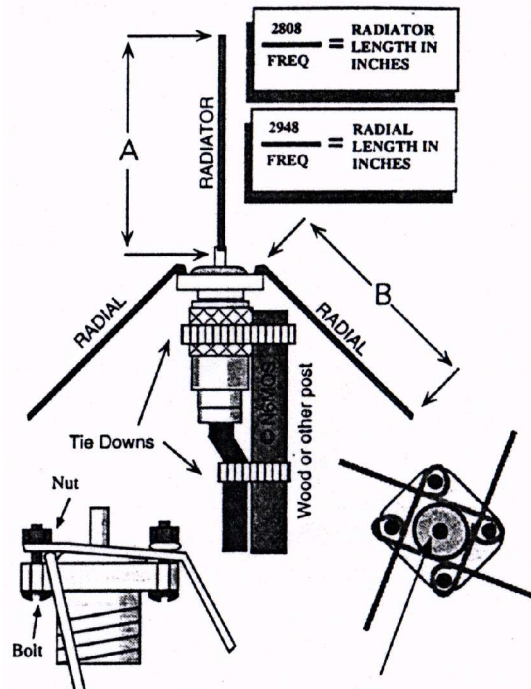
John K7JM - Editor



SO-239 Antenna

By David White WA7YFF

About a month back, I got to talking with someone in the club about this antenna. Unfortunately, I can't remember who it was, so I thought I would just make these instructions available to everyone. This is, after all, a very nice and easy antenna. I built a 2m version of this about a month after getting my Novice license, KB5QZP (but I had to wait until I upgraded to Technician Plus (KB5RRM) before I could use it!). I followed the instructions exactly and I still use the antenna today. It has a beautiful 1:1.2 SWR up and down the voice portion of 2m and 440 bands. Enjoy!



Capital City Amateur Radio Club
W7TCK
 Helena Montana USA



www.w7tck.org

One of the simplest antennas you can build is a quarterwave ground plane antenna. It is small in size and is inexpensive. The only part you will need to buy is an SO-239 panel mount connector. You can use an old wire hanger for the radiator and radials. You will need to use your soldering iron or gun to attach the Radiator to the center post of the SO=239. File any paint or coating from the radiator wire before soldering. Cut the radiator to the proper length before soldering it. If you can find a short copper tube to help secure the radiator to the SO-239, your antenna will stand up to high winds.

The radials may be soldered or attached with screws. Screws are the easier method if you take the time to overlap them as shown in the diagram. Cutting the radials may be done after the construction is complete.

The following charts are in decimal inches.

70 cm Band

FREQ	RADIATOR	RADIAL
423.0	6.64	6.97
424.0	6.62	6.95
425.0	6.61	6.94
426.0	6.59	6.92
427.0	6.58	6.90
428.0	6.56	6.89
429.0	6.55	6.87
430.0	6.53	6.86
431.0	6.52	6.84
432.0	6.50	6.82
433.0	6.48	6.81
434.0	6.47	6.79
435.0	6.46	6.78
436.0	6.44	6.76
437.0	6.43	6.75
438.0	6.41	6.73
439.0	6.40	6.72
440.0	6.38	6.70
441.0	6.37	6.68
442.0	6.35	6.67
443.0	6.34	6.65
444.0	6.32	6.64
445.0	6.31	6.62
446.0	6.30	6.61
447.0	6.28	6.60
448.0	6.27	6.58
449.0	6.25	6.57
450.0	6.24	6.55

10 Meter Band

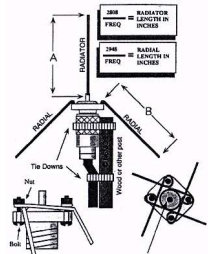
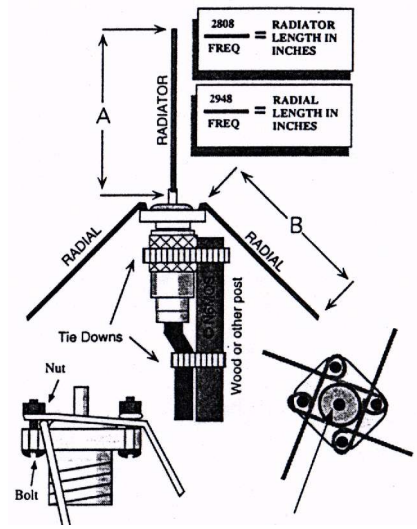
FREQ	RADIATOR	RADIAL
28.1	99.93	104.91
28.2	99.57	104.54
28.3	99.22	104.17
28.4	98.87	103.80
28.5	98.53	103.44
28.6	98.18	103.08
28.7	97.84	102.72
28.8	97.50	102.36
28.9	97.16	102.01
29.0	96.83	101.66
29.1	96.49	101.31
29.2	96.16	100.96
29.3	95.84	100.61
29.4	95.51	100.27
29.5	95.19	99.93
29.6	94.86	99.59
29.7	94.55	99.26
29.8	94.23	98.93
29.9	93.91	98.60

6 Meter Band

FREQ	RADIATOR	RADIAL
50.0	56.16	58.96
50.5	55.60	58.38
51.0	55.06	57.80
51.5	54.52	57.24
52.0	54.00	56.69
52.5	53.49	56.15
53.0	52.98	55.62
53.5	52.49	55.10
54.0	52.00	54.59

2 Meter Band

FREQ	RADIATOR	RADIAL
144.0	19.50	20.47
144.5	19.43	20.40
145.0	19.37	20.33
145.5	19.30	20.26
146.0	19.23	20.19
146.5	19.17	20.12
147.0	19.10	20.05
147.5	19.04	19.99
148.0	18.97	19.92



SKYWARN Recognition Day

The 7th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) special event will take place Saturday, December 3, 2005.



SKYWARN Recognition Day is an event co-sponsored by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. SKYWARN Recognition Day is the National Weather Service's way of saying "thank you" to Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to helping keep their communities safe. During the 24-hour special event, amateur radio operators visit their local National Weather Service (NWS) office and work as a team to contact other hams across the world. Last year, 114 NWS offices participated and logged over 15,000 QSOs during the 24 hour event.

To learn more, check out the web site: <http://hamradio.noaa.gov>. I have worked this special event several times. It is a great experience and a real fun event. And beside that, some of the QSL cards exchanged are worth the effort it takes to make the contact.

de Bob K7HLN

Technician License Classes to Begin on January 17th.

There is a lot of interest this year to have another session of CCARC Technician Classes. At least nine graduates from recently completed Certified Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes are interested in getting their Amateur Radio Technician licenses to be able to provide additional assistance during local emergencies. Several other prospective students attending the Emergency Preparedness Fair at the Capital Mall in October also expressed interest in attending Technician License classes.

Arrangements are being made for the classes to be held at the National Guard Training facilities at the airport. Classes will be held on Tuesday evenings for nine weeks beginning on January 17th.

Students interested in the classes need to pre-register by contacting John, KS7R before December 31, so that instruction books can be ordered (ARRL "Now Your Talking").

Instructors are needed for the class and the only skill needed to teach, is a desire to help the students learn. Those teaching will find it helps you brush up on your radio fundamentals and is fun and very rewarding. Anyone interested in pre-registering for the classes or in teaching should contact John Geach, KS7R at 442-7107.



The W7TCK Newsletter is published by the Capital City Amateur Radio Club.

P.O. Box 1112
Helena, MT 59624

CCARC Web Page: www.w7tck.org
Editor's E-Mail: jdmcdougall@juno.com

CCARC Regular meetings are at 7:00 pm on the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Salvation Army Church 1905 Henderson.

VE exams are offered monthly, just prior to the regular CCARC meeting, but on an appointment only basis. If no appointments are made, VE exams will not be scheduled for that month. Those wishing to take an exam should contact John Geach, KS7R, 442-7107 at least two days prior to the CCARC meeting to schedule an exam.

W7MRI Repeater: 147.82 (-offset)
Net every Tuesday at 7:30 pm local time on the 147.82 (-offset) repeater.

Return Address: Newsletter Editor
Capital City Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 271
Jefferson City, MT 59638

e-mail: jdmcdougall@juno.com

All expressions of opinions and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the author and are not to be regarded as expressing the view of CCARC.

Biscuits and Gravy

Come to Hardee's on Saturday. Every Saturday morning between 9:30 and 11:00, as many as twenty hams show up for "EYEBALL" QSOs.

COME JOIN THE FUN!

**Come and
VOTE**

The nominating committee's nominee's for CCARC officers next year are: President - Dave White (WA7YFF); Vice-President - Tod Glenn (N7JQW); Treasurer - John Geach (KS7R); Secretary - Rich Weddle (N7GC); and (last but certainly not least) Newsletter Editor - John McDougall (K7JM). Nominations will still be open at the December meeting for additional nominations.

In addition to electing officers at the December 5 meeting we will be presenting the highly coveted Ham of the Year Award for 2005.

First Class Mail