

NORTH SHORE ARC



Box 171, Oshawa, ON, Canada, L1H 7L1
www.oshwa.igs.net/~lsolomon/nsarc



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Club Member advances Bucket Ground Plane Technology

From: Steve McEdwards VA3TPS

Steve sent this note in on July 12th with the pictures to prove it.

Hope your having a great summer so far, it looks like it will be hot this weekend. I was talking to Peter and he said I should send you these pictures.

I was on holidays and up at the family cottage in Fenelon Falls. I wanted to go fishing with my son the evening of Wed July 12, but wanted to check into the 2meter net on VE3OSH. I had this old mag-mount antenna, so with a little tape and glue I put it back together. Now as we all know a mag-mount won't stick to an aluminum boat (I found this out by dropping the antenna into the water). While I was standing in my shed pondering the next step, it hit me, there it was, a metal bucket!

The rest is history! A bungee cord a handheld at 5 watts and quite a few funny stares from my family and neighbours and I was set, hooked up the analyzer, wow 1.2:1 match and we are on the air!!! 8:00PM the call of the net and VA3TPS/marine mobile is checking in.



This Ham radio is a lot of fun. Now I just have to figure out how to get my HF confined spaces dipole working from the boat.

And by the way, after the net while talking to Howie (VE3TYQ) and Steve (VA3SPH) my son caught a nice 3lb bass.

Take care and have a great summer!!



73
Steve
VA3TPS

And speaking of the Net

From: Will Skuta VA3WEW

Every Wednesday night on VE3OSH 147.120+ the North Shore Amateur Radio Club 2M Net will be hosted by our net controller Will, VA3WEW. It starts at 20:00hrs or 8:00pm. The net is open to all licensed ham operators. Membership in the Club is not required to participate. All Hams are encouraged to check in....

How to have your personality match your operating style

OR Split Frequency Operation.

From Guest Contributor: Peter VE3GYG

Peter is looking forward to the relaxing fall now that the summer is almost over. He has a few days to rest before turning his thoughts of repairing the snow plow.

I have recently "acquired" transceivers with extra internal/external/remote VFOs (each VFO typically identified as A and B). I've always been aware of "split operation", more commonly referred to as "working split", but I'm embarrassed to reveal I didn't have a grasp of how to do it. I didn't have rigs that could do it, or at least I didn't think I did. (note: remote Incremental Tuning (RIT) can accomplish "working split". I will explain below.) First, what is

working split? It is when we deliberately use different transmit and receive frequencies for a QSO. Another way to put it is - we do not transmit and receive on the same frequency.

I've done some surfing on the web and the following is what I have gleaned from that exercise.

There are two cases that working split are needed and used.

Case 1: Where the other country does not allow its operators to transmit in a portion of the band that we can, or do commonly. So, we listen to their transmissions and we transmit in another portion of the band, allowed to us (or in another band altogether). The Australians and Japanese are 2 examples of this practice.

Concrete examples:

Case 2: Very busy, high demand DX. In other words, a "pile-up".

I will first describe working-split simply

The DX operator cannot deal with everyone calling him on the same frequency as he/she is transmitting on. The unavoidable result is many stations inadvertently throwing out their call on top of the DX stations transmissions. Some operators will do it deliberately, some through inexperience and others by just honest mistake, as we all do from time to time. The result is the transmissions of the DX station are clobbered. The DX is impaired from completing QSOs efficiently. This puts him off.

Everyone will benefit if his transmit frequency could remain clear with the exception of him. The solution: is simply that all stations calling him use another frequency.

The DX station will indicate "up 5" (SSB), or "U 2" (CW), typically.. cq cq cq de zzznabc zzznabc u2 k. The DX station could indicate it is listening down 5 or 2 kc's, but this would be exceptional.

If you find a pile-up, tune down with your rx VFO, 5 or 2 kc accordingly, and keep looking a little farther down the band to find the DX station's transmissions. Your transmit VFO should be at the frequency the DX listening to, (up 5, but maybe up 6, 7, or 8 kc's, as he is tuning around). With using RIT the rx must be tuned down below your transmit frequency, so you can listen to the DX, but transmit up 5, (or 2 kc's for CW). You need to quickly return the RIT back to zero to see what happening on your transmit frequency. Ideally it is not too busy. You may want to tune a little higher up, a kc or 2 to get a clearer frequency, then adjust the RIT farther back down to hear the DX transmissions, if you have that

much swing available on your RIT. (mods are often available to increase the RIT swing). This was a formulaic description of the process.

Now for a more detailed understanding of what is going on. This involves putting yourself in the DX operator's head. The pile-up may actually be spread out 10 kc's or so. The DX operator is tuning across the pile-up in a repeatable, predictable manner. If you listen and detect what stations the DX is picking up as he tunes up across the pile-up, you may be able to insert your call a couple of kc's above the prior station's frequency. This is assuming the DX op is following a pattern of tuning upward in frequency. You have to determine the pattern and when and where to insert your call. Ideally this will be in a quiet spot at the top edge of where the DX is tuning/picking up calls. This will enable the smarter operator who is adept at operating his rig to get the contact even with marginal resources. Operating smart can get you the DX. Having the most expensive rig with the big power won't necessarily do it. A simple QRP rig with RIT can do it. This process separates you from the masses. You increase the probability of success hugely, but there are no guarantees. You can't compete with the big-guns, but you might out-smart them.

I have to emphasize that listening and predicting the behaviour of the DX operator is key to successful contacts. The DX operator repeats the behaviour over, and over, and over. You would too if you sat for many hours on the other end of a pile-up, eager to work you, and as many others as possible.

72, 73, and gud DX

Peter
VE3GYY

+++++

Well summer has passed all too quickly. The evening sunlight already shows that golden autumn glow. We're almost at the point of no return for antenna work and preparations for the fall season. I find myself wondering if HF will pick up. I sure hope so. My antenna woes continue, turns out that the aluminum siding on the house can really mess things up. One well-meaning HAM suggested that I load up the siding as a radiator. I seriously considered it, but I couldn't see myself fiddling with all of those joints trying to get a solid connection. So I'm hunting down some long pipe to raise a mast away from the house to hold the centre of my 40M inverted vee.

Your humble scribe
Ken
VE3RMK

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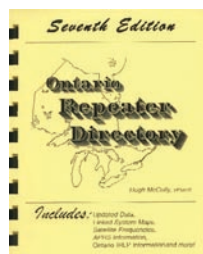
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