

The Framingham Circuit

Newsletter of the Framingham Amateur Radio Association

April 2006, Vol. 73, No. 4

In This Issue

President's Message

2006 Scholarship Rules

Page 2-

Six Meter J-Pole

A Great Do-It-Yourself Project

By James Cahill, KB1LOY

(Part 2 of 2)

Page 3-

FARA Horizons

Sunday Night Net Control Schedule

and more...

Thursday, April 6
This Month's Meeting

Pizza Party!!!

Submitting Material to the Circuit

Material may be submitted for publication by sending it directly to the editor. This can be done by US Mail, or via the Internet (preferred). The deadline for each issue is the **Wednesday**, one week before the monthly meeting.

by mail

Robert Hess, N1UVA
1175 Farmington Ave 3-204
Bristol, CT
06010

by internet

circuit@fara.org

President's Message

What a great flea market! The turnout was FANTASTIC but more important, the support from our membership in running the show was overwhelming! I cannot thank you all enough for your help. It wouldn't have come off without you. I particularly would like to thank Kevin, W1MEX for all his efforts in taking orders for tables and keeping the paperwork in order.

The presentation by Allen Pitts, W1AGP, at our last meeting was certainly amazing. The "Hello" PR campaign has been launched, and has great potential to create a positive perception of Ham Radio to the public. It even has its own website, www.hello-radio.org. More info about the campaign can be found on the ARRL website.

Our April 6th meeting will feature a business meeting/pizza party. Come to the shack as usual for a brief meeting. We will then have our pizza party at the Papa Ginos on Rte 30.

Please do email or call your state representative and senator regarding House Bill H-2133. Although this concerns cell phone use while driving, the implications of this for Amateur Radio use are huge. Please tell them that you want specific language which exempts Amateur Radio operators from the legislation.

Congrats to the seven new hams from the license in a weekend class; they had a 100% pass rate! Have fun and enjoy, and hope to see you at FARA meetings in the future!

CQ FD (It's coming soon!)

73, Gordy K1GB



Happy Shoppers at the 2006 Flea Market

2006 Scholarship Rules

By Richard, AA1VI

1. Must be an active member of FARA.
2. Applications must be turned in or post marked by April 15, 2006.
3. Must be a license radio amateur.
4. Preference will be given to graduating high school seniors.

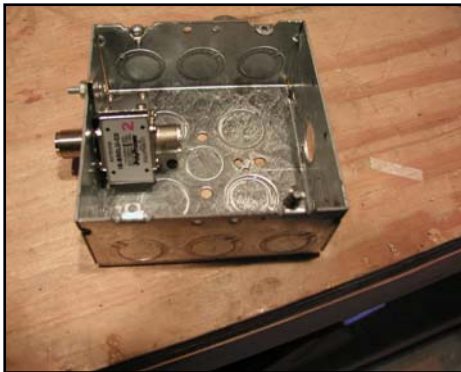
For applications contact Richard Cosma AA1VI 508 877 8241.

Six Meter J-Pole A Great Do-It-Yourself Project

By James Cahill, KB1LOY
(Part 2 of 2)

Mounting and Grounding

Static relief and lightning protection (if such a thing exists) is provided via a Polyphaser model IS-B50LU-CO (\$64.95) mounted in a junction box located in the eaves of the garage out of the weather.



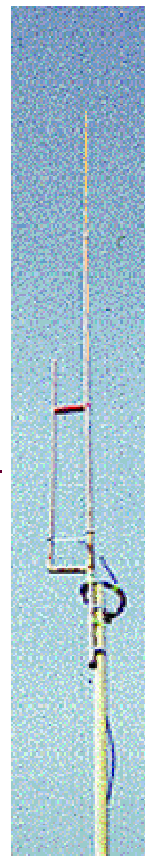
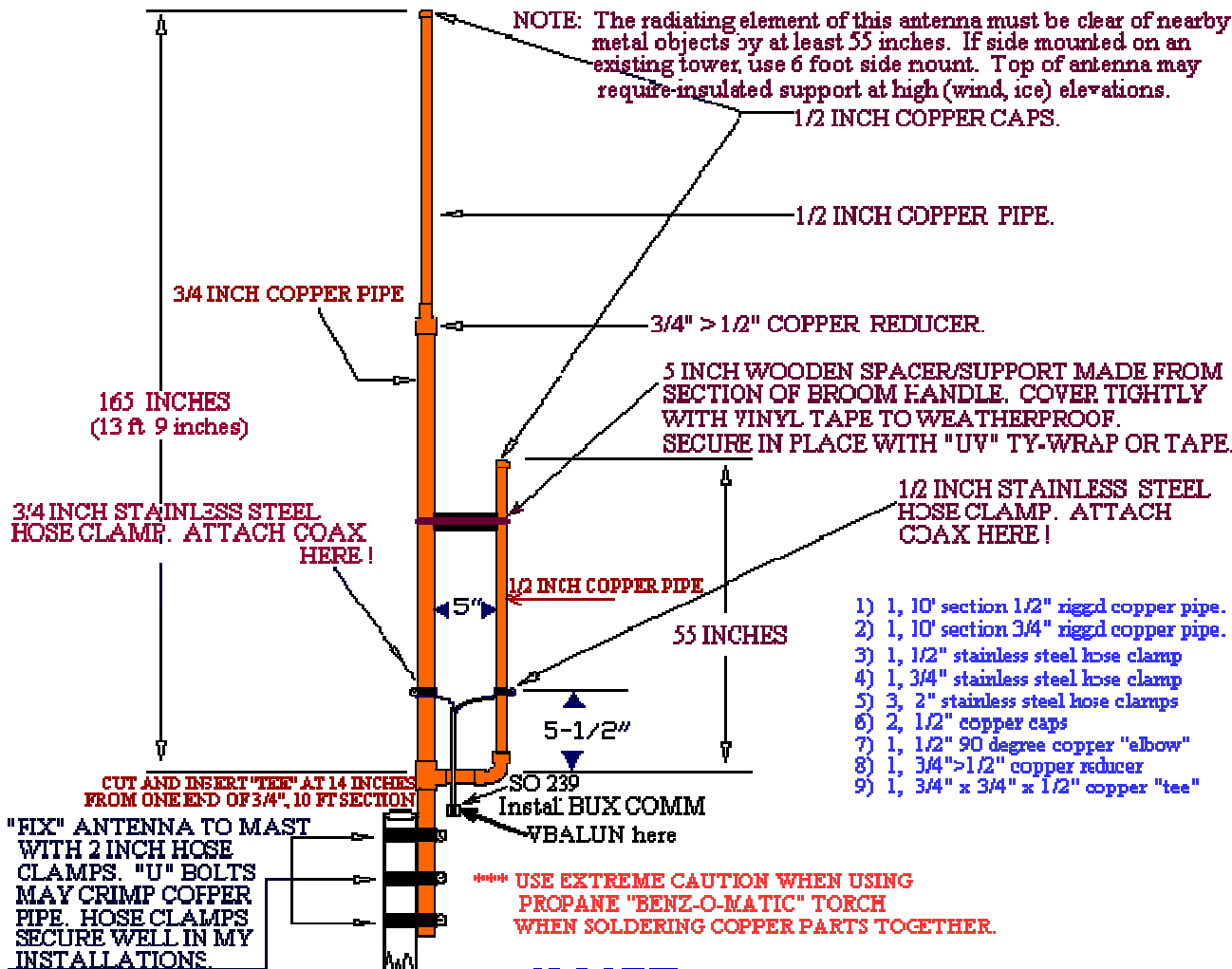
One coax feed line connects from the antenna to the Polyphaser (about 25 ft) and from there another 50 feet to the shack in the basement. The Polyphaser is also grounded independently to the ground rod. Wall mount brackets from Radio Shack secured the 5 ft mast to the gable end of the garage roof. An 8 foot ground rod was previously installed nearby and used for the 2M/70cm antenna.

Get some help to mount the antenna; don't risk falling off the ladder! Mount the mast first, and then bring the antenna up the ladder. Attach the coax to the antenna while it is on the ground. Secure the coil to the antenna via Ty-wraps, let the lower portion of the coax hang down. Keep some zip ties handy to secure the antenna to the mast initially then finish securing the antenna to the mast with the hose clamps. This will help keep your balance when erecting the antenna. Use a "drip loop" in the

coax, several inches away from the house, to divert rainwater traveling down the outside of the coax. Apply sealant to the top of the coax (at connection points to copper pipe) to prevent water entering the inner coax. Clamp a ground wire to the mast or the lower support of the J-Pole and connect the ground wire to the grounding rod.

Operating

Give the entire system a last minute look before connecting to the transceiver. After connecting, listen around first before transmitting. If you hear something that does not sound right, disconnect the radio and troubleshoot. Transmitting on a faulty antenna could damage your transceiver. It is recommended that you test the SWR before transmitting. I was pleased when I measured an SWR of 1.2 of the assembled antenna in its mounted position on my new Jetstream VHF/UHF SWR & Power Meter.



by Buck Rogers K4ABT

6 METER "J" POLE ANTENNA; DIMENSIONS ARE FOR 51 MHz

Operate on lower power to nearby locations first to confirm the antenna is performing well. Initial reports indicated a great signal was getting out. We then tried to work Mt. Greylock, the target repeater some 90 miles to the west. At 10 watts the signal was reported 100% copy with moderate white noise. At 50 watts, the signal report improved to 100% copy with light white noise, very respectable. The best part of building a homebrew antenna is operating with it when completed!



Conclusion

Building the copper j-pole is a project within reach of most amateur radio operators. The project could be easily completed in a weekend. Do not be afraid to innovate if you see a way to improve a design you have found such as the PVC spacer, and the feed line attachments to the copper pipe. Although my radio is limited to FM mode only on Six, the antenna will perform well for an all mode radio. The success of project has moti-

vated me to consider building other homebrew antenna projects. I look forward to working your station on Six real soon; 73 from James, KB1LOY.

Sunday Net Control Schedule

WA1R	4/2
W1EQW	4/9
W1VIV	4/16
W1NXC	4/23
K1GB	4/30
W1NAU	5/7

Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are as follows: (Make checks payable to FARA)

- Regular FARA \$15
- Student / Retired \$10
- Repeater (voluntary) \$10

FARA Email Reflector

If you have email and aren't signed up for the FARA email reflector, you're missing out on the last-minute news and updates. To sign up, send an email to Sharon at kc1yr@kc1yr.com requesting her to add you to the reflector.

Shopping Online?

Use fara.org/amazon and help out the club. FARA receives a small percentage of your order.

Upcoming FARA Meetings

Contact Gordy, K1GB if you have any meeting ideas.

April:

Pizza Party

May:

George Maier, K1GXT, on Collins Radio and collecting Collins gear.

June:

Dave Bernstein, AA6YQS

For Sale

All proceeds to benefit the club scholarship fund. Contact Gordy, K1GB. Donated by Dick, WA1HRV

Heathkit dummy load

2 Rohn 25 Sections, 1 top section

Ham II rotor and control box

50 feet Beldon 8214 coax


Cushcraft A4

FARA Horizons

- April 6: Club Meeting
- April 24: Board Meeting

This month's Circuit sponsored by:

WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION



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Club Information 2006

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- Meeting: Club meetings are normally held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30PM in the basement of the Danforth Museum, on Lexington St.
- Club Nets: FARA Net: Sunday, 7:30PM, 147.75/147.15 - social/chat, ARES preparedness
- Club Station: W1FY, the club station and shack, is open Saturday mornings from 8:30-12:00. Call the club number, 879-8097 to confirm.
- Club Web Site: <http://www.fara.org>