

The Radio Hotel - Antennas for the 3910 Rag Chew Net

By Rick Hiller -- W5RH

50 Ways to Hang a Skyhook

(sung to the tune of Paul Simon's 50 ways to Leave Your Lover)

*The problem is all in your backyard she said to me,
The answer is simple if you take it logically,
I'd like to help you get on the Rag Chew Net....it's E-Z.
Cause, there must be fifty ways to hang a skyhook.*

*Just put up a dipole, Joel,
Then load the ends, Sven,
Or add a couple of coils, Boyle,
Tune for thirty nine ten.*

*Build a vertical kit, Mitt,
LKJ will discuss it,
Best to put out some radials, Gwen,
Then just check in.*

The BVARC Wednesday Rag Chew Net, 7PM, 3910 KHz with NCS, John -- K5LKJ, welcomes all. It's simply a watering hole for those BVARC members and non-members to hang out for about an hour on the 75(80) Meter HF band. Check in, then check out the signal reports and listen and learn from those that have been regular check-ins for many years. But how do you get on the air on 75 Meters? Nine popular antennas that have been used by Net attendees come to mind, but in no way is it an all-encompassed listing. Use Google to understand the terms and descriptions that you don't know.

Order top to bottom is "desirable" to "less desirable" (IMHO):

- 1) A full size dipole – about 135 feet long
- 2) A loaded Dipole – The LKJ Wednesday Night Special – by K5LKJ the Net's NCS and MC.
http://www.bvarc.org/Tech/LKJ_Wednesday_Night_Special.pdf
- 3) Off Center Fed (OCF) Dipole – i.e. Carolina Windom
- 4) G5RV – Original Implementation
- 5) Short dipole using tuned, ladder-line feeders (ATU in the shack).
<http://bvarc.org/Tech/ShortenedDipole.pdf>
- 6) Verticals (18-AVQ, 6BTV, AV-18HT) Ground Mounted with radials or fed against Earth
- 7) Inverted L – vertical with radials or fed against Earth
- 8) Two 75 Meter Hamstick Mobile antennas back to back using an MFJ-347 adapter.
- 9) Isotron -- <http://isotronantennas.com/>

**Note: #'s 1 thru 5 dipoles should be in the air 20 feet or higher, if possible.*

All of the above will radiate to some degree, some better than others. Note that we are dealing with season changing, local, Low Band propagation -- ground wave (barely), direct wave and NVIS. Larry, K5LJ, wrote an article about this "donut hole" phenomena -- # 5 above has the link to his BVARC Tech Web Page article.

A good hint for all you spaced challenged, net check-in wannabes: a horizontal antenna does not have to remain linear. It can be bent or folded. Yes, with some degradation in performance, but it will get you on the air. Club member, Nizar -- K0NM, has suggested bending the ends of a dipole down towards the Earth to get some vertical radiation. His implementation in **The Bent Dipole, QST, May 1997**, might help you fit that dipole in your back yard.

See you on the Net. Enjoy your hobby. GL ES 73 DE W5RH **Next Time....The Skinny on Wire**

*The purpose of **The Radio Hotel** is to give you a practical kick start into exploring the workings of antenna systems. Google the buzz words and find out what they mean. Read up on antenna system theory to see how it all works together. You will be glad you did.*