

Message from the Prez

by Ken Widelitz, AB6FO

I've just made the decision to change my antenna patch (I don't have enough real estate to call it a farm) to completely max out what I can do on my 145' x 45' city lot. I've got two towers, 20' of tower on top of a 20' house, plus 13' of mast, for a top height of 53', and a telescoping tower that gets up to 70', plus 13' of mast, for a top height of 83'.

Another limitation is that I've got to stay under a 29' turning radius on the telescoping tower, or I would overlap the power lines that run across the rear lot line. (I already overlap the side lot lines if the antennas are turned the wrong way.) Unfortunately, that eliminates two elements on 80-meters. Bruce, WA7BNM, suggested I consider a relatively small telescoping tower on the roof, which I thought was an incredibly clever idea. But as a practical matter, I just can't go higher on the house without ripping out the upstairs ceiling and reinforcing the roof.

So in considering the problem, it is clear that the best I could do is a balloon vertical for 160-meters and a rotating dipole for 80-meters. I've been using a Force 12 EF180S rotating dipole on 80-meters at 72' for a year, and it creams the sloper and inverted vee I always used before.

I've been using a Mosley PRO-96 at 80' that gives me three elements on 40-meters. I think it plays well, but I'm going to go to a Force 12 EF340 that will give me a no compromise three elements on 40. I will have to give up a few feet in height, as that antenna will be at 72' on the bottom of the telescoping tower's mast.

The major improvement will be on 20-meters, which is virtually always the money band. I'm going to stack Force 12 EF420s (4 elements) on the telescoping tower at 83' and 51'. Right now the single EF420 is at 53' on the house tower, and it just kills the PRO-96. I believe the biggest compromise on the PRO-96 is on 20-meters.

Using K6STI's TA program with antenna files provided by Tom, N6BT, at Force 12, I learned a lot about stacking antennas. Given that the bottom antenna must be side mounted at the top of a telescoping tower section, my choice of height was only 31' to 33' or 51' to 53'.

Modeling showed 44' was optimal, but 51' was better than 33'.

On 15 and 10-meters I'm going to use Force 12 EF515/410s (5 elements on 15-meters interlaced with 4 elements on 10-meters, each fed separately) at 53' and 30' on the house tower. Modeling showed the stack played best with the bottom antenna at 27', but I can't go that low with the guying.

I've noticed that a single EF415 (4 elements on 15-meters) at 53' didn't perform as well as the PRO-96 at 80', which has 4 elements on 15-meters also. I'm hoping the addition of 6 elements will make up for the height giveaway. My thinking is pretty much the same for 10-meters. Especially at this point in the sunspot cycle, I'm willing to compromise by focusing on 40 and 20-meters at the expense of 10 and 15-meters. When the sunspots come back, maybe I'll put a big crane in the driveway for DX contests to gain a high 10 and 15-meter antennas.

I'm hoping to have the new system in place for Sweepstakes.



Sep - Oct 1998

W
M
O
C
O
C
S

California Contest Club Operations Results and Final Comments

61 10 10 5

SCCC Calendar

October

- 12-13 VK/ZL/Oceania Contest, CW
- 12 Asia-Pacific Sprint
- 12-13 Pennsylvania QSO Party
- 19-20 JARTS WW RTTY Contest
- 26-27 CQWW Contest, Phone

November

- 2-4 ARRL Sweepstakes, CW
- 8-10 Japan International DX Contest, Phone
- 9-10 WAE DX Contest, RTTY
- 16-18 ARRL Sweepstakes, Phone
- 23-24 CQWW Contest, CW

December

- 6-8 ARRL 160-meter Contest
- 14-15 ARRL 10-meter Contest
- 29 RAC Canada Winter Contest

Next Meeting: Saturday, Oct. 12
Time: 11:00A

N6HC's 9TH
10931 Hunting Horn Drive
Santa Ana
(714) - 573-2965

Directions:

Take either the 5 or 405 freeways to the
22 freeway East
Take the 55 freeway North
Exit at Chapman Avenue East
Follow Chapman East to Crawford Cyn (~
2 miles)
Turn right on Crawford Cyn and go to end
Turn left on Newport
Turn right onto Cowan Heights Blvd. (1st
signal)
Turn right on Skyline (1st right)
Continue less than 0.5 mile
Turn right on Hunting Horn Dr.



Southern California Contest Club
43150 Sixth St. East
Lancaster, California 93535



First Class Mail

N6VR Member through: 02/98
Ray Benny
160 Brandt Ave.
Oak View CA 93022

33022/9322

