

# Ham Chatter

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Our 16th Year

## Tailgating At A Hamfest Makes Good Profit

By Bill Dawson/WA4SLC

*For those of you who have never tailgated at a hamfest before, you don't know what you are missing. My first time was at the New Bern hamfest. Due to my limited selection, I did not have much luck. I traded one item and sold another at a later date as a result of someone looking around the felamarket.*

*My second attempt at selling was at the Maysville hamfest last year. The day was cool but the crowd was warm and friendly and I made about \$35 for my items.*

*By far the most enjoyable time I have had tailgating was this year at the Raleigh Hamfest, but it seems no matter how much preparation I do it is not enough. This results in a lot of last minute rushing. Everything went into the car just fine, tables on the bottom, boxes on top of the tables and also in the back seat. I found that still I had room for one more person, so I called Art Fletcher/K4OZP, and made arrangements to pick him up at seven a.m.*

*Sunday morning I picked up Gary Ambert/AI4J, and Art, then headed for Raleigh. We traveled long with Donnie/KE4FK and the members of the "Icom" group that were in his car. It was a very enjoyable trip.*

*Jim Aderholt/WA4EXW and Danny Shive/K4WKZ brought items to my table and sold them so all of us had good luck at that location. My final take for the day was \$95 which I thought was very good. One thing that I noticed was the time really went by fast when I was selling and watching the people go by, a lot faster than in past years when I was walking all over the place and waiting for the prize drawing.*

*Some things which might help those of you who want to turn your "boat anchors" into cash are, make them look as good as you can, display them well, mark the price on them, but be prepared to compromise, take something to sit on and be there early. In the future I am going to try to improve on a couple of these myself.*

## TVI Report No. 1

By Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK

There are times when Ham radio operations will interfere with a television receiver. BARC has now started a TVI investigating team, with a first assignment a success.

A neighbor of Donnie Hudson, KE4FK, noticed interference on his Sony color portable from Donnie's transmitter. Gary and myself went to the neighbor's house with traps, tools, and an interference handbook. At first glance, an improper connection of the cable TV hook-up was noticed.

A series of tests were begun with the cable TV system. Coming out of the converter box for the cable TV, was a cable connected to a matching transformer on the television's terminals for 300 ohm flat lead, in addition to the regular cable TV connection was another piece of flat lead, six feet long, then another six foot section connected to the television.

All of the cables were

removed and the regular cable TV hook-up was resumed. With this set-up there was no interference. Donnie tried the transmitter on 10, 15, 20 meters and the television showed no interference. One 300 ohm flat lead was replaced to the same terminals as the hook-up for the cable TV, which was supposed to be a trap for the "Showtime" channel. There was plenty of interference on most channels, showing up the worst on cable channel 9. Donnie then changed bands, and there was no interference from 10 and 20 meters, just 15 meters. A trap was installed in series with the coax for the cable TV and reduced the interference. In conclusion: with the cable TV correctly installed there was no interference from 10, 15, or 20 meters.

Please let me know if anyone has TVI problems, and we will try to find the cause.

## WHO?

Who are the "ker-chunkers" who will not talk to me? If you are on two meters, you understand the question, but for those of you who are not: When a repeater is keyed, it makes a "ker-chunk." These are people who do not want to talk. When I hear this, I identify, meaning I do want to talk.

The question is, do these people not want to talk, or not want to talk to me? Perhaps I do not want the answer to that question. In any case, I would really like to know who the "ker-chunkers" are. Guess I never will. — Jack Edwards/W4DXJ

## MEETING DATE

The Next meeting will be Tuesday June 8, 7:45 p.m. at the Planters National Bank Building at the corner of Third and Washington Streets, in Greenville. The program will be on field day.

## FOR SALE

COLLINS 51J4 receiver, \$250, with cabinet, Call Roger Ham, KB4RB, 756-2855.

## CLUB STUFF



•Tommy Forrest has a new call-it's N4GVK.

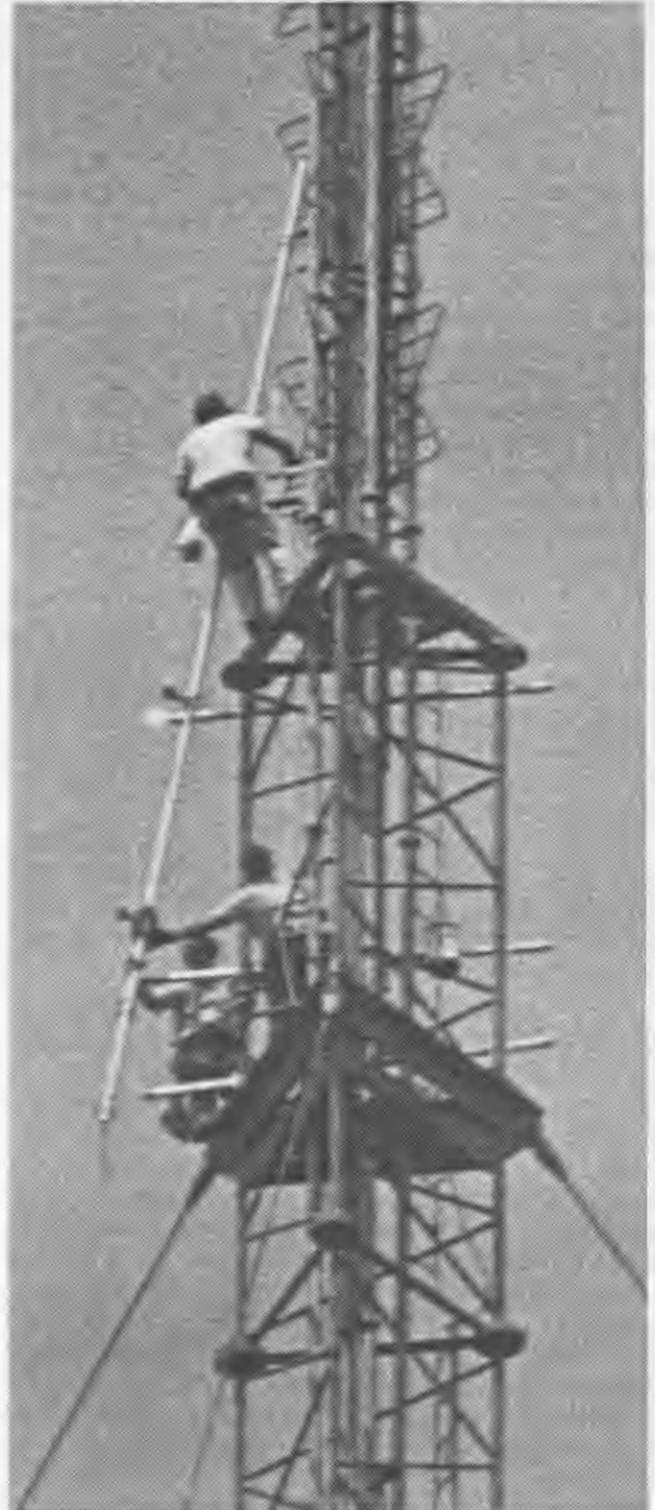
•Allen Merritt has has his novice ticket- his call is KB4ASC. Alan's first QSO lasted two hours with another novice station.

## 09 Repeater Antenna Now In Operation

The new diapole array Phelps Dodge antenna is in place 804 feet atop the old WNCT-TV tower on Evans St extention for the 69/09 repeater. According to Murray Adams/WA4DAN, the installation took all day Saturday and part of Wednesday. These are a some photos of the events on Saturday. On the tower is Burney Nobles, Lloyd Van Wagenen and Roy Becker. Many thanks is extended to Roy who made two trips up the tower on Wednesday to couple the diapole array into the old television feedline, which was part of the problem Saturday, and the reason for the incompletion of the project. Murray reports all is doing well and waiting for signal reports. Macon Dail/WB4PMQ was the photographer for the event.



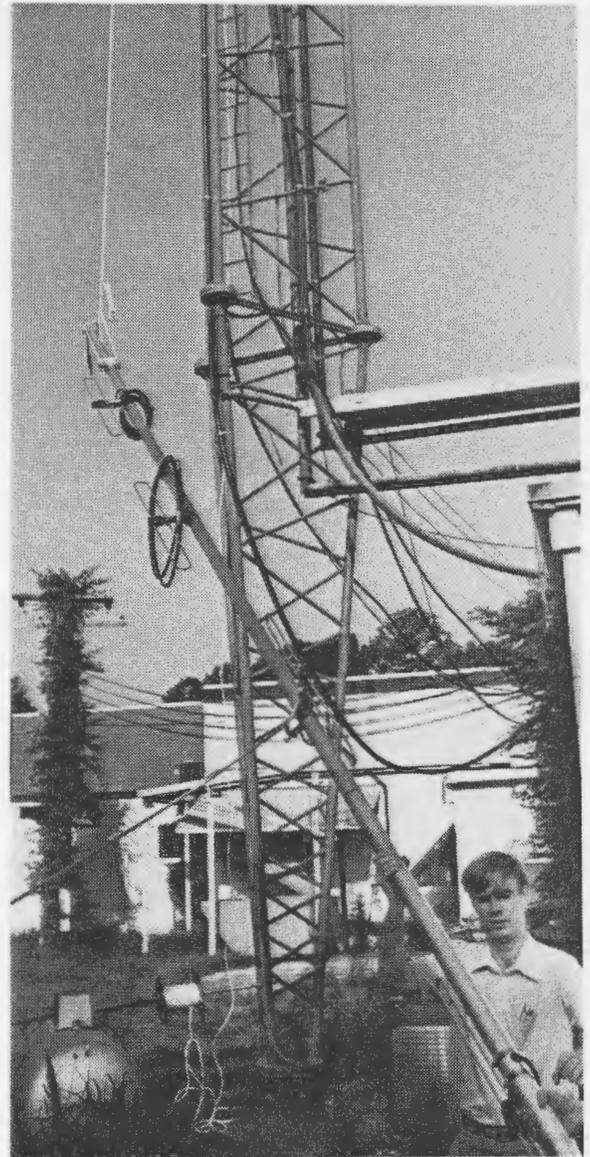
THE ANTENNA..This is the Phelps Dodge antenna array that is now in use.



ON TOP OF IT...Bernie, Lloyd, and Roy place the antenna in position at 800 feet.



TOWER HELPER...Gary Ambert/AI4J waves to the camera from the first guy point on the tower. Gary guided ropes away from critical microwave equipment on the structure.



READY TO RAISE TO TOP...Murray holds the antenna as it begins its trip to the top of the tower.

## Antenna victory

Joel Kandel, KI4T  
Asst. Dir. ARRL SE Div.

Very recently, another victory was struck for Amateur Radio antennas. In a close call, St. John's County (Florida) passed a tower height ordinance, but excluded Amateur Radio towers from compliance.

The victory was due to amateur awareness and the ARRL's quick legal response to the situation. In a five-page letter to James G. Sisco, St. John's County Counsel, ARRL attorney Christopher D. Imlay presented a very convincing argument as to why Amateur Radio could not be regulated by local ordinance. He defined Amateur Radio stations as "federally-licensed instrumentalities of interstate commerce, pervasively controlled by the United States government

through the Federal Communications Commission."

He went on to point out that tower height was not necessarily a factor of safety, and that a higher tower could create less of a chance of RF interference with home entertainment equipment. A number of precedent cases throughout the country were cited by Imlay where the courts ruled in favor of the amateur and where "substantial attorney's fees were awarded by the court to the amateur, to be paid by the municipality."

The quick action of Robert Robinson, W4ZR, with a phone call to Newington, prevented North Florida amateurs from future harassment. Keep your eyes open for this kind of legislation in your area.  
— Florida Skip

Just a note: Roy on his trip to the top Wednesday accidentally dropped the battery pack of Murray's Icon IC2A. The pack fell approximately 800 feet into the woods near the station.

When Roy came down to earth again, a search was made, and you guessed it! the pack was found. It worked! Murray reports that it wasn't even scratched. How's that for sound equipment?

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