



The quarterly newsletter of the  
Magnolia DX Association, Inc.

JUNE 2009

Edited by N5YY  
With an absolute minimum of text changes

QRM/QRN is published quarterly by the Magnolia DX Association, Inc.

Edited by N5YY (with minimal text changes to submitted articles).  
Articles and photos are solicited from members

Material or pictures used from other publications can not be used without a copyright release

**Table of Contents:**

**Presidents Corner.....3**

**Contest Caveat.....4**

**YL News from Dayton.....5**

**Pix.....6,7**

**April 26 Board Minutes.....8**

**160 Meter Dash by K2FF.....9**

**Editorial by N5YY.....12**

**A visit with K5DL by K5DL.....13**

**A visit with N5GH by N5GH.....14**

**Next MDXA meeting is 13 June 2009 at Barnhills**  
**Fied Day weekend is 26-27 June 2009**  
**MDXA meeting 11 July**  
**MDXA meeting 8 August**

## President's Corner

Greetings fellow MDXA members. It's been a very busy year for the club so far and I have been honored to serve as your president. We all knew that the transition from what the MDXA was for all those years to a more structured organization would not be without some strife and differences of opinion. MDXA member from day one and my good friend, George, K5JZ said something recently that really stuck with me when he called us a "family, albeit a Jerry Springer family at times". There have been and continue to be strong differences of opinion about the best direction for the club. Strong feelings like those only come with a strong love of something. And MDXA members care deeply for our club.... The club succeeds and thrives when we remember that we all love the same thing.... This allows us to work through our differences with mutual respect and open minds. Yeah, we might break a few chairs or throw a few tantrums along the way but that's only because this is important to us. I encourage all members to never hesitate to bring concerns/suggestions to the board. I assure you that your input is greatly appreciated and will be given careful consideration. The thing we love is still here, and still strong... I believe it will continue to be here and be strong for a long time to come. We are a DX club, it's our middle name!!! Yes, we are bringing in new members who are new to DXing.... both young and old.... doing so is necessary for the club's continued survival and relevance in the DX community. The seasoned DXers in the club have a lot to share about this unique aspect of the hobby and we have a responsibility to openly share this knowledge and love of DXing. Our new members also have a responsibility. The MDXA opens its arms to you with the understanding that you have a genuine interest in DXing. Does this mean you have to work 200 countries your first year as a member, of course not... but, if working a VK on 40m longpath doesn't excite you, then maybe this is not the right club for you. I'm happy to say I see positive things happening all the time.... active participation in the weekly 2m DX net..... late night informal DX chasing on the "Hoot Owl Net".... interest by members to do remote operations.... and several MDXAers active in contests over this past fall/winter season.

Another positive sign are the number of members who have stepped up to lead educational and operating activities.... For the first time ever the MDXA has an official "Contest Coordinator" in WQ5L. Ray has done a great job getting the word out about contests and informing members about how to submit logs, etc.... Jimmy, K5OP has been doing an outstanding job on our web site... Gene, AE5FB and Jerry, N5UCF have stepped up to manage QSLs for our club call K5MDX.... Dan, AE5JG has volunteered to coordinate the weekly 2m DX net... and of course Vic, N5YY is doing our newsletter... In the past few weeks, Chuck, WS1L stepped up to lead our Field Day effort this year.... and we can't forget the important work that BJ, KB5CSQ is doing with the YLRL and the license testing classes being taught by AE5JG, N2PKW, KA5VFU, K5YG and N5YY.

On the DX front, we are FINALLY on the uphill side of a sunspot cycle. We've spent a few years now languishing in the bottom of Cycle 23. 10M propagation almost non-existent, 15M not much better. But, it only gets better from here as Cycle 24 gets going and it will be an exciting time for new and seasoned DXers alike. Solar cycles are always unpredictable but its a pretty sure bet that six months from now conditions will be a lot better than today and six months after that it will be

even better until we reach the next peak now predicted to occur somewhere around 2012.... Those of you who have only been DXers for a year or two have no idea what you are in store for. You are developing operating skills now when conditions are poor that will serve you even better when propagation is on our side. Those of you who struggled putting the recent DXpeditions to Mellish and Lord Howe in the log without the kilowatts and yagis will be amazed at what's possible with 100W and a dipole when sunspots are on your side and you have the know how to bust a pileup.

Finally, I'm really pleased to see this inaugural issue of the MDXA Inc newsletter and would like to thank all members who have contributed content for it and especially to Vic, N5YY for putting it together and publishing. Over the years the MDXA has tried several times to get a newsletter off the ground always with limited success and limited runs. I firmly believe that the main reason past attempts have not survived is lack of contributions by members. I won't belabor the fact... but, Vic NEEDS your continued support to keep this going and more than just moral support... put something down on paper!!! ....nuff said....

73/DX, Randy – W5UE

## *Careful During a Contest*

*Shortly after a recent contest, some MDXA members received “OO” (Official Observer) notices stating they were operating out of their band.*

*At other times I have noticed newer members (and old timers too) are operating right on a band edge. Remember all transmitted signals have a bandwidth. SSB signals are about 3 KHz wide (per the test guides). If you are transmitting on 14.349 MHz USB, your sideband WILL be above the band limit of 14.350 MHz, and if the FCC hears you, you WILL get a ticket. A DX station calling on that frequency does not justify your responding in violation of your license.*

*De N5YY*

# YL News from Dayton

This was my first time to attend Dayton and trust me it is huge.

While there I had the pleasure of meeting and talking to a lot of YLs and of course you must visit the YLRL table you just never know who will be there working the booth. Another must is attending the YLRL forum where I met Tina VK5TMC and her OM Robert from Australia, and Connie DF8MN from Germany, and 30 other YLs from all over. What a nice group. Ladies start saving up the \$\$ now lots of YL plans for the future YLRL in Boston 2011, International YL meeting Germany in 2010 and International YL meeting in Australia in 2012. Sue, W5MSW, and I have told our OMs we would like to go to Australia. We are still awaiting an answer.

The vendors booths were full of new radio gear to see and touch and of course all the gadgets of all kinds. During my touring around the vendor booths I met more YLs just to mention a few-- ICOM booth- Ann WA1S and --Telewave & US Tower – Mary KF6QJN.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Gail K2RED of CQ Communications who has been managing editor for 30 years and she also edits for CQ VHF and the DX Magazine. Gail tells us she has been a ham for 12 years and she is active on 20 meters only with 100 watts and a dipole her radio is a YAESU FT840. She has had the pleasure of operating several contesting stations through the years and you can usually see her at the Hamfests in Orlando, Dallas Hamcom and Dayton. She has been seen at Huntsville working the CQ booth.

The YLs also hobnob with the big DXer's while at Dayton and trust me they were there from everywhere and most of them we have worked or heard on the air. We even had our picture made with one that most of you have worked HC8N/N5KO, Trey, which our very on MDXA president is QSL manager for (and by the way Randy W5UE he told Sue and I we were much better looking than you so your job may be in jeopardy).

Please see the attached pictures of Dayton.

73  
BJ  
KB5CSQ







# Magnolia DX Association, Inc

## Board of Directors Meeting

April 26, 2009

Meeting of the MDXA BOD was called to order at 1430 hours local by President – W5UE. Vice President – K2FF, Treasurer – KA5VFU, and Secretary – WD5BJT were present. The following items were discussed:

### - Field Day

-- BOD along with WS1L (FD Chairman) checked out three different physical sites. WS1L recommended Big Foot Horse Trail Recreation location...BOD approved. Chuck will follow up with planning e-mails, additional POCs, solicitation of equipment/operators, etc.

### - Membership roster updates

-- WD5BJT will continue to keep the official membership roster and send updates to the BOD, plus Web Master – K5OP and reflector list maintainer – WS1L. Copy will be provided to the entire club during any month when a change is made (i.e., new member added, etc).

### - Membership certificates

-- KA5VFU will continue printing membership certificates. W5UE & K2FF will be primary signers. Presentations will be officially made at monthly breakfast/club meetings or any other official meeting as deemed appropriate.

### - Callsign@mdxa.org & mdxa@w5ue.net

-- W5UE will task K5OP & WS1L to scrub each list and provide BOD with members who either do not have an established club alias or do not receive e-mails via the club reflector. Importance of having both will be provided to those who are not set up.

### - Webpage updates (MDXA + ARRL)

-- K2FF tasked to review each MDXA page for currency and work with K5OP to update. K2FF also tasked to update MDXA info on ARRL's club webpage database

### - Newsletter

-- Editor - N5YY working on first edition of MDXA Newsletter for 2009. There is a 30 April 2009 suspense for membership to submit articles to Vic. Hope to have first edition published sometime in May. Encourage all members to submit articles on a continuing basis.

### - Dipole antenna party

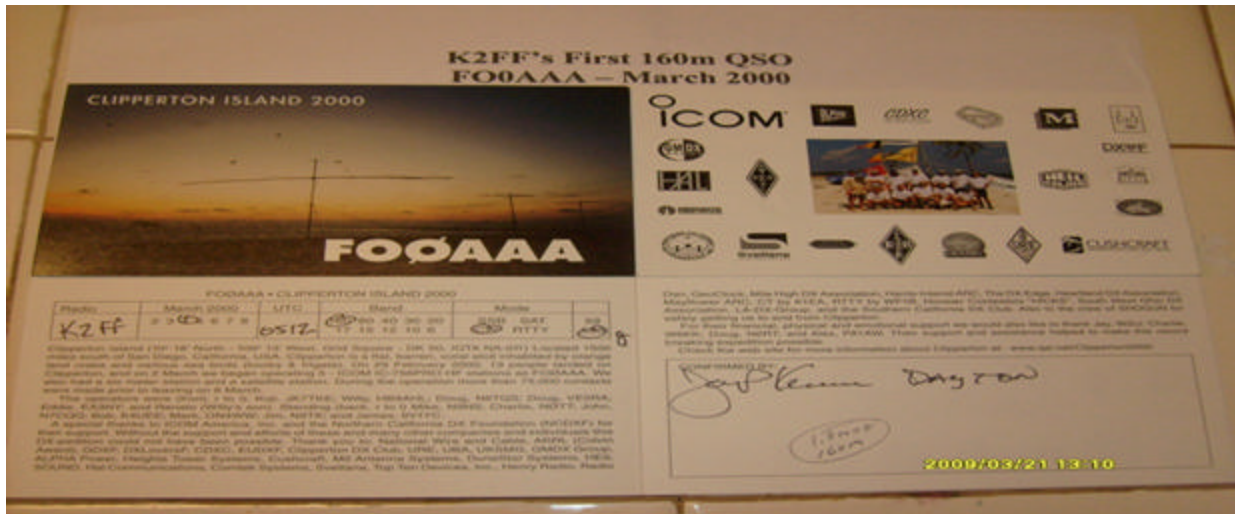
-- WD5BJT reported there are approximately 6 individuals who have expressed an interest. He's looking to set date/time sometime prior to FD...more to come.

# “The 160 Meter Dash”

## By K2FF

Initial efforts at jogging or running as a form of serious exercise first came for me when I went off to Basic Military Training with the U.S. Air Force in December 1982. I quickly found that jogging was a healthy activity and also provided a unique amount pleasure by just getting out in the fresh air and going for “10K” as they say. However, that initial run was more like 100 meters instead of 1,000 meters. And reaching my current daily distance took a slow but gradual buildup over time along with setting incremental goals. So why the odd number of 160 meters in the title you ask? Well, of course, for hams there’s nothing odd about 160m! After all, “Top Band DXing” has absolutely nothing to do with jogging or running...then again it just might.

DXing began for me just months after obtaining my original license in June 1979. In fact, I would say 85% of all my contacts from the beginning up to the present have been DX. Early on I made a point to chase “band countries” and currently have just slightly over 2,400 on DXCC Challenge. However, my interest and activity on 160m had long been almost an afterthought. This is especially true when you consider my very first contact on that band didn’t even occur until 20+ years later in March of 2000 during the FO0AAA Clipperton Island DXpedition:



And looking at the progression after that first contact shows that “Top Band” was NOT a priority by any means. Here’s a brief history of DXCC submissions for 160m to prove the point:

- September 2002	5	Total Top Band Confirmations
- November 2003	5	No change
- November 2004	15	Total Top Band Confirmations
- January 2005	36	Total Top Band Confirmations
- December 2005	66	Total Top Band Confirmations
- October 2006	69	Total Top Band Confirmations
- October 2007	75	Total Top Band Confirmations
- August 2008	75	No Change

So a total of 75 entities had been worked and confirmed between that first 160m contact back in March 2000 and the August 2008 DXCC submission. That's 75 entities over a period of eight years for an average of 9 countries every year! And it probably would have stayed on this slow progression had it not been for the "DXCC Countdown" at the 2008 MDXA DX Dinner. For the first time there was a counting of how many different bands on which members had achieved DXCC. And while it was a proud moment to be standing with only about 10 other people with 8-Band DXCC (10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, 40, 80m), it was painful when I had to sit down and see only two or three still standing because they could also claim 160m DXCC. It was at that moment a new "goal" was established. Obtaining 160m DXCC was now in the crosshairs resulting in a larger overall "target" of achieving 9-Band DXCC status by the end of 2009! It was obviously time to pick up the pace, or dust off the running shoes one might say.

First order of business was to quit using the 80m Inverted-V with tuner and put up an actual resonant 160m antenna. It took only a few hours one afternoon to build and hoist up a full size 160m Inverted-V wire at 75ft in one of the "city-owned pines" behind the house. (Note: Catch me off line sometime and I'll explain the "government" aspect of my antenna farm.) So, the new wire looked great as the extra long legs sparkled in the sunshine and the SWR measurements providing the following numbers within the prime CW portion of the band:

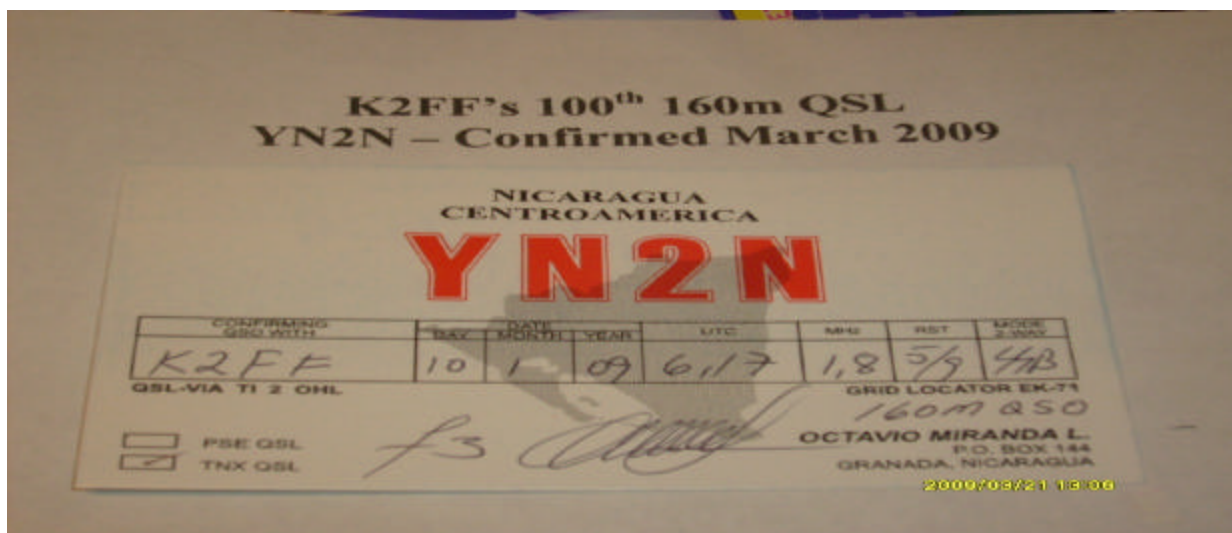
1.3:1	SWR	1.800	Mhz	Sweet
1.2:1	SWR	1.810	Mhz	Sweeter
1.1:1	SWR	1.820	Mhz	Sweetest
1.2:1	SWR	1.835	Mhz	Sweeter
1.3:1	SWR	1.845	Mhz	Sweet

But, let me take a minute here and revisit the subject of running and mention something that many joggers will do towards the end of any run...it's called a "kick." For instance, at the end of a standard 5K run it's very common to "sprint" the last 100 or 200 meters. This last minute sprint is known as the "kick." Runners will tell you there's something about crossing the finish line with an extra burst of energy or speed. Sure, it may just be physiological, but, something about leaning forward and kicking those last few hundred meters makes you feel like the whole outing was run at that same speed. The added excitement, the increased heart beat, the rush of wind past your ears, the thrill of victory, the breaking of the tape, the roar of the crowd,...it's wonderful! But I digress too much...back to the real subject at hand.

So what were the chances I would improve upon my current 160m lack-luster average over the last eight years of working and confirming a mere 9 entities every 12 months? Things seemed to in order...it was winter, there was a new wire in the air, the Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark-V was poised and ready, the Acom 2000A was purring underneath the desk, there was another 160m contest on the horizon, and the cluster spots on Top Band showed the DX was ripe for the picking. All that was missing was "K2FF" breaking the static crashes on 1.8 Mhz!

It was the middle of December and the DX official gave the call, "get on your mark, get set, go!" First came SM2LIY...then OK1CZ...then 4O3A...SV3RF, HB0/DL2OBO, OH0R, 4U1UN,

K5D, OX3XR, UA3EDQ, TS7C, EL2DX, TF3CW, KL7RA, FW5RE, JA7OEM, and the list kept growing...faster than I had ever expected. I couldn't wait for early mornings before work, late evenings after work, weekends with a contest built in, or even a Federal holiday strategically tucked in there somewhere. Before I knew it March 9<sup>th</sup> had arrived and PS0F (Fernando de Noronha) was in the log for #115 WORKED. That's right, 40 new ones on 160m had been worked in exactly 3 months! That's an average of 3 new entities on Top Band per week! Those 40 additional countries in only 3 months represented more than 50% of my original starting total of 75, which if you'll recall had taken me some 96 months (8 years) to achieve on a very casual and non-attentive basis. But wait a minute, "worked" is a far cry from "confirmed." Well trust me, e-mails were being exchanged, matches were being made via LoTW, and direct QSLs were going in the mail immediately upon making a solid 160m QSO. And remember the PS0F QSO mentioned above? Well, it was on that same date, March 9<sup>th</sup>, that the U.S. Postal Service also delivered a paper QSL from YN2N for our 160m SSB contact thereby resulting in #100 being CONFIRMED on Top Band! And even extra special was the fact of having made the YN2N contact precisely two months earlier on January 10<sup>th</sup> which is my birthday! Like they say, "timing" can be everything when it comes to DX, especially on 160m. And such was the case for me during this "dash" to the finish line...at least to the "100 confirmed" mark that is.



Therefore, April 2009 will see another hybrid DXCC submission made which will include my getting to check the "new award" box in the 160m DXCC column on the ARRL's application form. Total confirmations will go from 75 back in August 2008 to a new total of 105 in April 2009! Guess the only problem I have now is trying to decide the next goal. Should it be 115, 120, 125, or more worked on Top Band by year's end? Or should it be increasing my jog from the current 5K every other day up to 7K every other day? Or, maybe I would enjoy targeting something totally new like working 6m, especially since I have only ONE country confirmed on that band. However, my wife (Cindy) would tell you that "Freddy Freddy" could be declared "#1 XYZ in Ham Radio" in a matter of minutes if I simply took her out to eat more! But, regardless of what I establish as my new target, I strongly encourage each of you to join in the fun by setting yourself both some general and specific ham radio goals to be accomplished during the remainder of 2009. Be ready to catch the "sun spot wave" during its initial forming so the peak will take you even higher. Let's all do our part to keep the MDXA as "radio active" as

possible. Nothing beats hearing one of our members, new or old, bust a DX pileup! It's like the sweet aroma of the Magnolia itself. And speaking of sweet, think I'll take "Cindy" out to dinner and celebrate. After all, even hard core DXers need to eat every now and then! ☺

## **An Editorial**

**By N5YY**

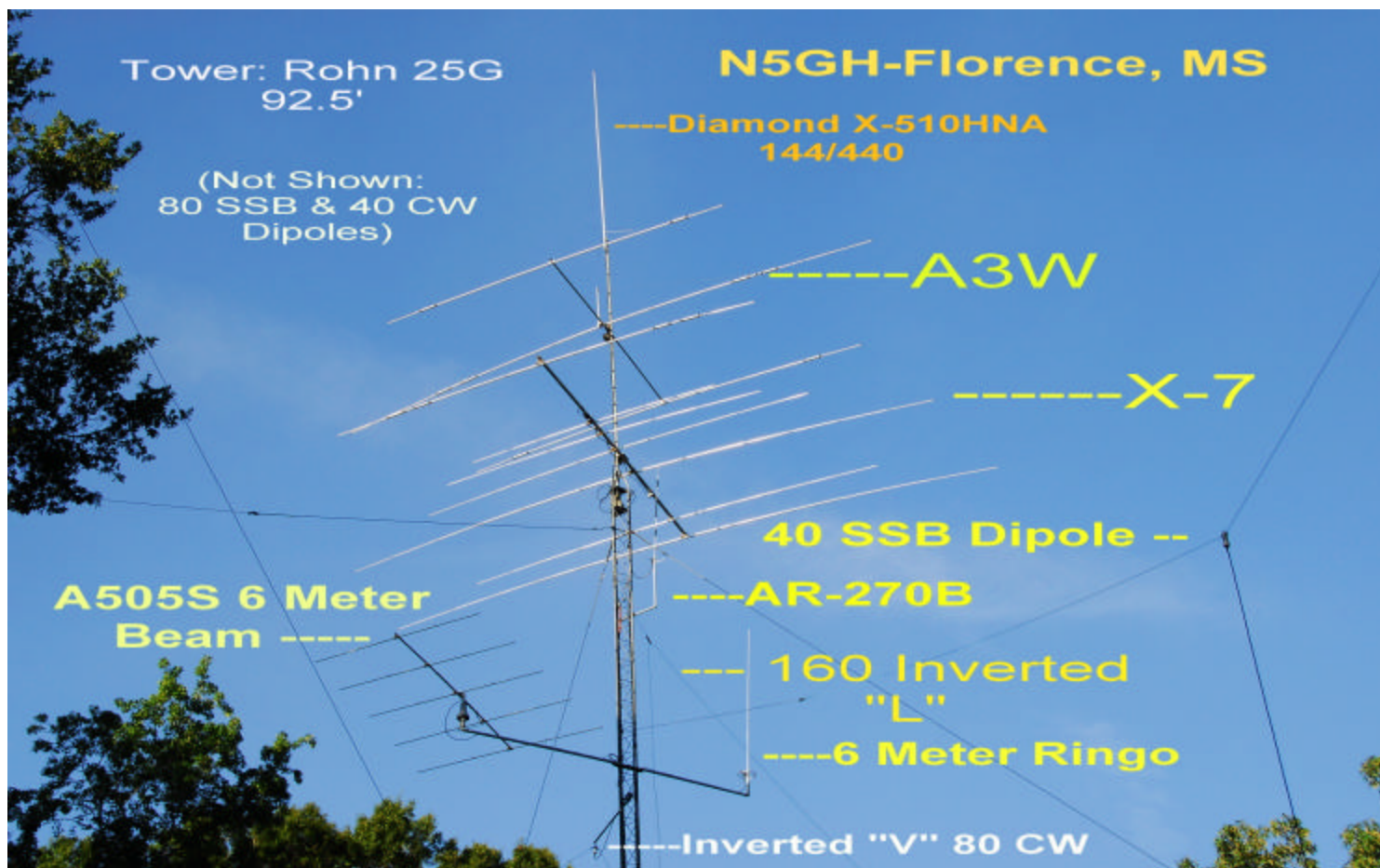
It is very obvious that the MDXA repeater has a very large number of new amateurs using it nowadays. My biggest suggestion to the new comers is to listen to the old timers for advice on operating procedures as well as equipment choices. Our newcomers seem to be in two groups. Those with a year or so of experience and those with only a few months experience. Some of those with a year or so of experience are being very generous in giving advice to the newer hams. This may be very good. It indicates they are enthused with their new hobby, and want to share it with others. But it can also be very bad. Some of the advice I have heard is questionable at best, much is erroneous, and some is dangerous. Old timers have much more experience with various types of rigs and antennas, and can guide you well. This experience factor can be extremely important when considering antenna tower work. Working on a tower without the proper knowledge and safety equipment is DEADLY. PLEASE ask for experienced help before planning your antenna tower project.. Even old timers need to review safety procedures before beginning a tower project..

## A visit with K5DL

Spring has sprung on the MS Coast and new towers and antenna systems are sprouting up all over the place. Pictured is the new tower and beam at K5DL. Cecil decided putting the antenna up so high was to no real advantage so his is installed at 7'. Makes it easy to make adjustments and keeps it out of the wind... No actually it was easier to assemble and adjust the antenna this way prior to stacking the remaining 6 tower sections. When finished the tower will top out at around 67' with the Force 12 C4-SXL at close to 70' and a Directive Systems 5 element 6m beam at 76'. The guy anchors are in place as is the beginning of the lightning protective ground system. In total 15 ground rods will be driven and nearly 500' of 2/0 stranded bare wire buried in hopes of dissipating any strikes away from the shack and the house. Two 3" runs of conduit will be buried to the tower to allow various cables to be pulled to the tower for the antennas. Initially 5 runs of LMR-600 will be pulled up the tower to support the 20-10 meter beam, the 2 elements on 40m, the 6 meter and 2 meter beams and one for to the remote antenna switch for various wire antennas. The guy cables will be broken up with insulators to avoid resonate sections. All in all a project that has been 3 years in the making. None of which could have been done without lots of help from a great group of friends.



## *A visit with N5GH*



Visit with N5GH (cont)

The antennas set up used at my qth in Florence, MS.

Tower: Rohn 25G, 92.5 feet.

Cushcraft X-7 "Big Thunder": Three Element for 10-15-20 Meters

Cushcraft A3W: Three Element For 17-12 Meters. Dipole For 30 Meters

Cushcraft A505S 5 Element 6 Meter Beam

Cushcraft AR-6 6 Meter Ringo

Cushcraft AR-270B 144/440 Vertical

Diamond X-510HMA 1444/440 Vertical

Inverted "L" for 160 Meters

Dipole: 80 Meter Flat Top For SSB

Dipole: 80 Meter Inverted "V" For CW

Dipole: 40 Meter Flat Top For SSB

Dipole: 40 Meter Inverted "V" for CW

Gap Titan DX Vertical: 160-80-40-20 Meters

Beverage Antennas (4) Looking North, North East, South and West

## Visit with N5GH (cont)



### Equipment Used At N5GH

Yaesu FT-2000 160 through 6 Meter Transceiver

Yaesu MD-200 Microphone

Yaesu SP-2000 Speaker

Yaesu MDU-2000 Data Management Unit w/19" Gateway LCD Monitor

Yaesu FH-2 Remote Key Pad Controller

Yaesu MTU-160 External u-Tuning Unit  
Yaesu MTU-80/40 External u-Tuning Unit  
Kenwood TL-922A KW Amplifier: 160 through 10 Meters  
Kenwood TM-732A Dual Band Transceiver  
Kenwood SW-2000 SWR Meter (2)  
Rigblaster Pro for FSK RTTY and BPSK31  
MFJ MFJ-422 Electronic Keyer Paddle  
MFJ MFJ-ARB-704 Transceiver to Amplifier Interface  
Ameritron RCS-8V Remote Antenna Switch (2) For HF Antennas  
Ameritron RCS-4 Remote Antenna Switch For Beverage Antennas  
Hygain Ham-IV Rotor and Control Box (HF Beam Antennas)  
Hygain Ham Rotator and Control Box (6 Meter Beam)  
Dell GX-240 1.5 GHz Computer For Ham Radio Programs/DX Cluster  
Sony Digital Tape Recorder (for taking traffic)  
LaCross Digital Atomic Clock for UTC Time

***That's it for this first issue  
Please send input for the next issue to N5YY***