

GLENN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY



GARS

KG6AR

Prez Says

The GARS Repeater

August 2025

Salutations from the lair of KF6OBI! – When do you recall a July that was as mild as we just had? My fading memory does not recall one in the last 2 decades. Also must mention that we just had our first rain fall at the Saint John site. Rain year starts on 1 July. That happened yesterday with the site receiving 0.04 inches of rain. I also don't ever recall any rain, at the site in July in the last couple of decades, or longer.

With the weather constantly changing here in California and elsewhere in the nation we need to remain vigilant, always aware, of what is happening all around us. There seems an alarming increase in all kinds of incidents that are catching us by great surprise.

GARS will be holding its normal membership meeting on the 8th of August, and its online board meeting on the 6th of August. Would the membership like to turn this August meeting into an Ice Cream, talk about recent ham radio discoveries, Social? Let the board know so we can make all the preparations.

Also please note: GARS will be taking the month of September off. We will not be holding our scheduled membership meeting. In stead we can plan another activity during the last half of the month. What kind of activity would you like to have happen. I have one idea, a BBQ get together at the QTH of KF6OBI. What says the membership? Would you be willing to show up for just an event? Let us know so we can make the necessary plans together.

Members please offer up your ideas and support for having ham related actives on a by-monthly basis. As a club we need to be more active together and show our support for one another. Planning such activities can be fun when done as a team!

Up and coming events are: – See notices on the GARS Website <<https://www.garshamradio.org/>>; --GEARS will be holding a VEC License testing is this Sunday August 3rd. Contact Tom Rider, W6JS myw6js@gmail.com to make a reservation. The next Chico ham radio breakfast will be on Saturday August 9th 9am at Farmers Skillet in Chico. CW practice every Wednesday evening 6pm at Golden Beaver Distillery – Park Ave Still House, 2420 Park Ave, Chico, CA 95928. Also GEARS has a slow-speed CW net every Thursday evening at 7pm. The frequency is 7.052. We say 7.044 +/- to mean if 7.044 is occupied, we'll move to a frequency up or down nearby.

Gears will be holding the Steak Bake BBQ this year. More information to follow when GEARS finalizes the details. **The GARS Monday night will be held using the AF6OA repeater during August, all 4 Mondays.**

Of note: The Win System operating on the GEARS UHF repeater at 440.650 MHz with plus offset, and a PL tone of 110.9 Hz. For more information see www.winsystem.org/

This months membership meeting will be on the second Friday, the 8th of August 2025, at the Lutheran Fellowship Hall, 565 Main Street, Artois CA, at 7:00pm. Late arrivals and guests are always welcome. Also remember that one does not have to be a member of the club to participate in our membership meetings and activities. Be safe in all you do and may you all have many blessings in the days and months ahead!

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The “Almost Random” Wire Antenna

March 12, 2007 By [Dan KB6NU](#)

I'm still amazed at the success I'm having with my random wire antenna on 80m. Yesterday, I worked a guy who said he was running 500W. He was, of course, 599 here, but he gave me a 589. There's now no doubt in my mind that a random wire can be an effective antenna.

On the [HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list](#), there was a related discussion about the “almost random” wire antenna. The idea is that some lengths just won't work well on one or more bands. In general, you want to avoid choosing a length that is a half wavelength, or multiple of a half wavelength of a band that you want to operate.

Tim, N9PUZ notes:

I have used the 49.2 ft (15 Meter) length of wire on vacation with both automatic tuners and an MFJ Model 16010 tuner with good results for 40, 20, 17, and 15 Meter operation. This is not as good an antenna as a dipole or doublet in my opinion but it's a workable antenna.

Moe, AB8XA, added:

With all the bands we have at our disposal, finding an end-fed antenna length that's not near $1/2$ wavelength on some bands is tough, impossible for me so far. As far as dodging $1/2$ wavelengths, 86.9' may be the best compromise for most bands. Using 95% velocity factor, I find 86.9' roughly $1/3 \lambda$ on 80 m, $2/3 \lambda$ on 40 m, $4/3 \lambda$ on 20 m, $5/3 \lambda$ on 17 m, $7/3 \lambda$ on 12 m, and $8/3 \lambda$ on 10 m ($2.60 - 2.73 \lambda$). But it is exactly $1/2 \lambda$ on 60 m, and 0.94λ , almost $3/3$ or 2 half λ , across 30 m, and $1.95 - 2.00 \lambda$, or $6/3$ and 4 half λ , on 15 m.

My IC-718 doesn't have 60m, so slightly shortening the 86.9' may make it possible to tune 30 m and the lower, CW end of 15 m. But that might bring the lower end of 10 m too close to 2.5λ .

It appears to me, with an integrated tuner in the radio, which may not have the tuning range necessary for some bands, or even with a wide-range tuner in the shack, the end-fed brings the antenna inside and close to the operator. A remote automatic wide-range tuner, such as the Icom AH-4 or SGC SC-230, between the end of the antenna and lengths of coax and control cable to the shack, appears to me might resolve that problem.

One of these tuners mounted well away from the shack, and close to the ground to feed the required radials, also offers the opportunity to turn an almost all horizontal wire into an inverted-L. From what I've seen playing with some modeling software, adding some vertical portion to the antenna can slightly ease the cloud-burning effect of a relatively low horizontal run on lower frequencies, as well as significantly reduce the depth of the nulls of a long horizontal wire on higher frequencies. But I'm sure no antenna expert. It's always been my toughest subject.

My antenna is 85-ft. long, so I bet I can get mine to load on nearly any band. My next project is to connect it so an SGC-239 automatic antenna tuner that I have and just see what I can do on bands other than 80m.

