



## The TARC Reflector for June 2014

It seems to be that time once again to begin the newsletter. As everyone is aware of the Radio Reunion had to be canceled this year due to lack of participation. It really disappointed me that it had to be canceled even though several emails were sent out by Dana, KJ4GWB, and my self-asking about this event. I hope that our other events do to not fall to this state. This does not look good for our club and Mike would not be happy about this at all.

The next thing that is up for the club, and it is a biggie, is Field Day. I have not had many people say they are willing to run a station and be a captain. So at this point it is looking like the Radio Reunion.

The club means too much to most of us to see it fall to the wayside and I am open for suggestions on what to do. I keep hearing that I have very big shoes to fill and I can't do it alone but I don't see people stepping up the plate and trying to help.

This club does not run it self it takes us all to make it happen. Even Mike needed help from us and we were willing to give it and that should not have changed. I love the family I have through

TARC and would not want to trade it for anything. I hope we can get back on track by everyone participating.

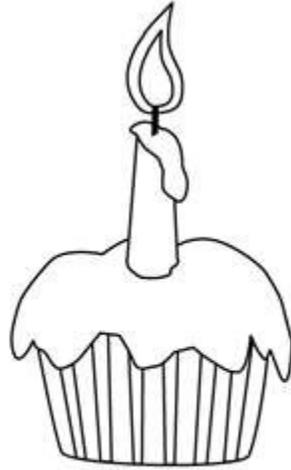
Don't forget the meeting is coming up soon on June 7, 2014 at Rock Bottom Seafood. I hope to see many of you there.

John Swicord, KE4RWR



Field Day is approaching very fast and we are in need of help. Since I am the vice president of special events and this is one of our biggest events I need to know who is coming and what they are bringing for a side dish. I also would like to know who is willing to be a station captain and for what they are hoping to do. The club needs people to step up and do things other than the same few that does it all. I want to see new blood trying to do things to benefit the club.

Thank you in advance for your help,  
Dana Swicord, KJ4GWB



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

## **June Birthdays**

Wynona Sadler June 2

Terry Sadler June 2

Dot Lewis June 6

Bob Moody June 9

Dana Swicord June 17

Gina McCulley June 23

Bill Kitchens June 25

Piper Tyre June 29

# July Birthdays

Kerry Freeman July 4

Bobby Cooper July 5

Nell Brown July 6

Linda James July 7

Buddy Peeples July 7

Kerry Lemley July 15

Dan Moniz July 22

Donna Light July 25

Tom Brewer July 26

Gary Alberstadt July 30

Don't see YOUR Birthday? Let us know at [w4uci@arri.net](mailto:w4uci@arri.net)

## Test Session

The test session will be at Field Day on Saturday June 28, at 10:00 a.m. If we do not have a coordinator at that time it will be held at a later time. It will be held at Thomas County EOC on Remington Ave.

# Minutes from the May Meeting

## Welcome and Announcements

John welcomed everyone to the meeting.

There was a test session that was held on April 19th and we have one new tech. His name is Jason Daughtry (KM4ARK). The next test session will be held on May 17th, which will be the same day as the radio reunion. The test session will be held in the morning prior to the Radio Reunion.

The Radio Reunion is the 17th, and will be possibly bumping the time to 1PM instead of 2PM. Everyone can start showing up around noon and eat at 1PM. John got a call from William stating that he will not be able to commit to anything at this time. John discussed smoking the meat the week prior to the Radio Reunion at the Lodge. We are doing Boston Butts again this year for the Reunion. An official notice has not been sent out to the local clubs about the Radio Reunion, and this will be going out soon so that people can RSVP. John will send out an email as soon as possible.

The mid-month breakfast falls on the 17th and the question was asked if we should do it because of everything else going on this day. It was stated that if anyone wanted to show up they could but there would be no official mid-month breakfast this month due to the Radio Reunion.

The Rag chew breakfast is still going on and people are encouraged to come and join the group for some good fellowship.

## **Minutes and Treasurer's Report**

The Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved as presented.

## **Old Business**

The Radio Reunion is May 17th. William can't commit to helping with the meat and this is a covered dish event. If people want to volunteer to help smoke the meat contact John. Field Day is June 28th and 29th and it will be at the EOC and John will possibly need some help with cooking some meat. May go back to chicken instead of Boston Butts, but will talk about this at a later time.

We will have a test session on Field Day around 10AM, if we have a coordinator there in the morning. If not we will have a test session later in the day so that Alan can make it because he is a coordinator. We need to think about how many stations we want to do and who wants to run them. We need to get station captains lined up by the next meeting. Someone is going to pull the trailer somewhere so that it can be looked at and repaired before Field Day.

We have to set up 2 or 3 coordinators instead of just one so that it is not such a burden on the one person. At W5Y they are OK with several coordinators to help handle the paperwork for testing. We don't have a W5Y coordinator, but John is working on getting that set up. Also trying to get a coordinator for Moultrie so that they can do their own testing because they are reviving the Club in Moultrie.

## **New Business**

Peacock Day is May 10th, and we may not be able to do it this year even though we have done it for several years. We help line up parade and make sure everyone is in place. We direct people to their spot in the lineup. It has slipped up on us this year. John is not going to be able to help and Wynonna is working that day. Several others are going to be out of pocket that day or have other plans and cannot help with the parade. It only takes 5 or 6 people and you give the people their number and show them where their spot on the lineup is at. If anyone does this you should get there around 9AM to help get them lined up. When the

parade starts you are done and you can leave, usually done before 12. If anyone does not contact John to handle this before the end of the week he will contact the lady in Pavo and tell her that we will have to pass.

Steve Williams is at Select Specialty Hospital in Tallahassee. He is doing pretty good and his status changes day by day. His mental state is in and out. They have had him on pain management medicine which could cause problems with his mental status.

There were 27 members present.

Respectfully submitted,

Leann Doering, KK4HYB

### Quick and Easy Zip Cord Antennas

With summer here and road trips, camp outs, Field Day, and vacation cabins in the mix, it might be time for a light weight HF antenna that works well and takes advantage of whatever antenna supports “of convenience” you might encounter in your travels.

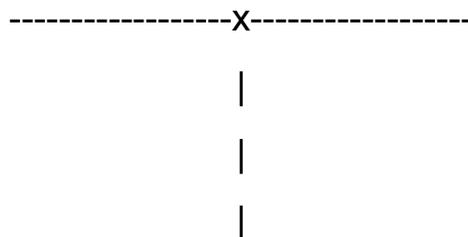
At almost any hardware, big box home store, or your local Radio Shack you will find what is called zip cord in varieties designed for lamp cord replacement, speaker wire, etc. With a 100 foot roll you can make an antenna or two to tote along and get on the air anywhere you can find a handy tree branch or other support to hang it from.

The basic concept is to unzip the zip cord into your dipole element lengths. Use the still zipped together line for the feed line. Secure the feed line to element junction with zip ties or an electrician's knot. Make sure to have a way to hang the middle and just tie the ends directly to nylon twine or fishing line to the end supports.

I generally use 16 or 18 gauge speaker cord. Avoid the very thin 20 to 24 gauge wire. A zip tie or two will be used on the antenna where it separates from the feed line. With another zip tie you can make a loop to hang the antenna from. Some thin nylon line to hang it with and to tie the ends with and you are good to go.

So let's make one. How about a version of the G5RV? From your 100 foot roll you will unzip 52 feet of wire. Wrap a zip tie or two where the two wires separate from the still zipped together line. And before you tighten that zip tie add another to serve as a loop to hang the antenna from if your location favors the inverted vee approach. Tie some thin nylon line or some monofilament fishing line right to the ends of the antenna to stretch the ends out to your end supports.

Now we're left with 48 feet of feed line. You have two choices here. The first is to just leave it intact and run it to your antenna tuner to the balanced output terminals. Or you can cut the remaining line down to 30 feet or so, connect your coax there, and run that to your antenna tuner or to your rig if it has a built in tuner.



In the diagram the horizontals on each side of the x are 52 feet each. The x is where the zip ties are. The vertical section is the still zipped together zip cord, around 30 feet or so of it. The ends can be tied to whatever supports are available by tying the antenna ends directly to your nylon (a good insulator) line. This is shown as a horizontal antenna but it is more likely you will hang it as an inverted vee.

That's all there is to it. Does it work? Yes pretty much like any other G5RV. If you're a stickler you can trim the vertical drop for lowest swr on 20 meters. In theory the length should be 25 feet or so due to the lower velocity factor of zip cord vs ladder line, But that will have little effect on 40 and 80 so it may be best just to leave that longer length.

If you just want a single band antenna then use the standard dipole lengths for insulated wire in all the handbooks. But here's the trick for getting the feed line length right so you won't need a tuner. An electrical half wavelength of feed line will mirror the antenna impedance at the end of that half wave of feed. Figure that half wave section like this:  $492 \text{ times } .7$  (velocity factor) divided by the frequency. So for 20 meters we would have 24.25 feet At that point you could attach 50 ohm coax and run it to the rig and should be very close to a match. Always best to start with a longer length and trim down however.

Keep in mind though that the velocity factor of whatever zip cord you buy could be noticeably different ARRL has tested several kinds of wire that all come out close enough to a 70% velocity factor. So stick to the number 16 or 18 zip cord and you should be ok,

ARRL has also tested the loss of zip cord and found that it does have somewhat higher loss than say RG-58 cable. For that reason keep feedline lengths shorter than 50 feet if possible. This works out fine for 40 meter versions and of course the higher bands will be shorter. For 80 just use the G5RV version to keep the feed line length in the lower loss zone.

You can hang one of these antennas just about anywhere you can find a support. They are light, almost invisible, and will get you plenty of contacts if hung in the clear and as high off the ground as you can get them.

Even though these antennas aren't designed for permanent use I had a 20 meter version up for several years. It still worked fine when taken down but was starting to look a little ratty. The clear insulation of the wire I used was obviously not designed to withstand Georgia sunshine for long periods of time. But for a temporary antenna this won't be a worry.

If you build one let me know how you made yours and how it worked.

73 de NY4D



## Steve Williams

May 1, 1940-May 15, 2014

Steve was a unique man. He always wanted to make you laugh and he tried to make sure of that. He quickly became a friend to everyone he met. He was generous to

a fault. Even though he could not do much he did what he could to help the club out.

Steve was born in Tampa, Florida and served his country in the U.S. Navy. He then went on to a lifetime career as fire fighter with the Tampa Fire Department. He talked about being a fire fighter often and what fun times he had doing that job.

The whole time that I knew Steve he did not mention the things he did in the Navy but I know he was glad to have served his country. He said once that if he could do it again he would.

As I sit here typing this I have tears flowing because I truly loved this man. He became not only a friend but part of my family. It is very hard to talk about him knowing I will never here that voice crack jokes again to make me smile when I have had a bad day.

I will never forget the past mother's day before he got sick. He asked me if John got me things for holidays like that and I informed him sometimes but usually not. Well, Steve would have none of that and bought me a new knife set and flowers and told me Happy Mother's Day from him. He was just that kind of guy.

I know he is no longer hurting and to that I am forever grateful but that does not make my loss of a dear friend any easier. I know that like me you will never forget him.

Rest in peace Steve.

## Remembering our Fathers ....



**4 years: My Daddy can do anything!**

**7 years: My Dad knows a lot...a whole lot.**

**8 years: My father does not know quite everything.**

**12 years: Oh well, naturally Father does not know that either.**

**14 years: Oh, Father? He is hopelessly old-fashioned.**

**21 years: Oh, that man-he is out of date!**

**25 years: He knows a little bit about it, but not much.**

**30 years: I must find out what Dad thinks about it.**

**35 years: Before we decide, we will get Dad's idea first.**

**50 years: What would Dad have thought about that?**

**60 years: My Dad knew literally everything!**

**65 years: I wish I could talk it over with Dad once more.**

**An insert by: Mike Brown in 2011**