

The Central Texas Amateur Radio Club meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Bell County Communications Center, 708 West Avenue O, in Belton

Terry's Telegram...

Terry Evans, KF5OHR

Going on behind the scenes of late, Gerald Richmond-N5ZXJ, working with Bubba Moore-N5JLP, have been reaching out to the First Nazarene Church in Belton as a possible place to hold our monthly club meetings. They will most likely let us use the facility for a small fee which is very understandable and should be very agreeable to. Also mentioned to sweeten this deal, was an offering by us, to come out and help when they have a church clean-up day or something to that effect. Anything we can do that could help them since they are willing to assist us in a meeting place would not be too much to ask. At our last meeting on March 6th, the membership unanimously voted to continue with these proceedings. Final approval is pending and Rick will send out an email to everyone once it's finalized.

I want to extend a very warm welcome to Leslie Hawley-KG5WBJ and to Alfred Fronfield-W5VCF, who joined our club at the last meeting and I also want to thank those club members who stepped up and renewed their membership. It's good to have you folks and we need you to remain the successful organization we are.

From my end of the spectrum, there's not much to write about this month. I spent the last weekend servicing my lawn mower and doing some much needed yard work. Hope everything is now ready for the new seasonal growth.

Myself and some friends took a 440 mile ride to Brady Texas, about 2.5 hours each way. Now it looks like the rain is moving in again, so no riding this week. I did try to get people on the radio while I was out riding, but no luck. I may have to check my radio settings again.

That's all from my end of the spectrum, hope you all have a happy Easter and don't forget HamExpo is coming up this month, with all the radio stuff you simply can't live without.

I look forward to seeing you at our next club meeting which will be on Tuesday, April 3rd, at 7:00 PM at the Bell County Communications Center.

Until then, stay safe and I'll see you on the air!

73, Terry - KF5OHR



HamEXPO!



Sponsored by the Temple Amateur Radio Club -W5LM, *the Belton Hamfest* returns to the Bell County Exposition Center in Belton, **Saturday, April 7th** from 7:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Getting there is easy; from U.S. Highway 190 take the exit for Loop 121 and follow the signs to the Exposition Center. Plenty of free parking!

Talk-in frequency is 146.820(-) PL 123, and call for W5LM.

General admission for the public is \$5.00 at the door. Admission price includes one free raffle ticket for various door prizes raffled off during the event. Winners must be present to collect their winnings.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.tarc.org/hamexpo>



Ham Expo Amateur Radio Test Session

In conjunction with the HamExpo, amateur radio tests will be given in the main building of the Expo center, on the 2nd floor, and is sponsored by the Central Texas Amateur Radio Club. The testing will begin at 9:30 AM and end when all applicants have been tested, probably around 11:00 AM.

Since the test session is in conjunction with the very popular Ham Expo, we expect between 25 and 50 people taking the tests. This requires at least 10 Volunteer Examiners to properly staff the event. The VE's participating should be on site by 9:00. Both General and Extra VE's are needed since all test levels are being made available.

This is a 'Ham Community' effort and all area VE's are needed and most welcome to participate. If you will be able to participate, please send an email to Jan Gregg - W5GNK at: jang5@yahoo.com, or you can contact her by phone at (254) 217-3791.

People taking the test do not need to register before hand, just show up at test time. A photo ID and one other form of ID is required. The test fee is \$15.00.

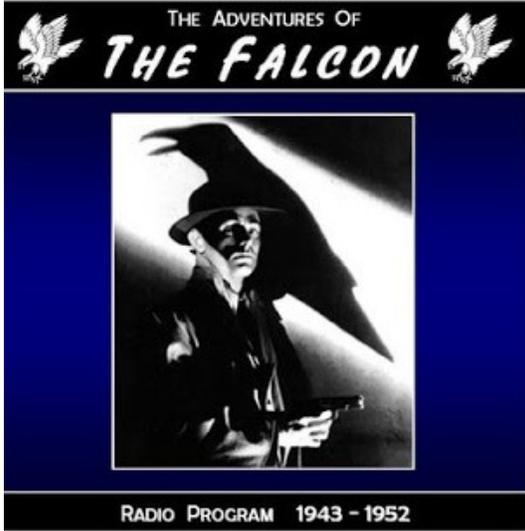


ARRL Petitions FCC for Expanded HF Privileges for Technician Licensees

The ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals. The petition can be read at: <http://www.arrl.org/files/media/News/2018%20Entry%20Level%20License%20PRM%20FINAL.pdf>



"There's one thing you learn working as a private detective, haste doesn't always make waste."



The Falcon radio series premiered on the NBC Blue Network on April 10th, 1943, then continued on NBC and Mutual until November 27th, 1954.

"Drexel Drake" alias the Falcon, was a free-lance investigator and trouble-shooter. Set in cosmopolitan New York City, the radio plots mixed danger, romance and comedy in equal parts with each show beginning with a telephone ringing and the Falcon, answering the phone, speaking with a woman whose voice was never heard. He would reply to her and another adventure would follow. The Falcon was snappy and sarcastic with the incompetent police who were inevitably unable to solve the mysteries without his help.

You can tune-in again to *"the sleuth who provided a hand to oppressed men and an eye toward repressed women"* by visiting:

<https://oldradioprograms.us/Falcon.htm>



The Central Texas Amateur Radio Net meets every Thursday at 8:00 PM on the N5ZXJ repeater, on 145.310(-) PL 123.0
Join Us!

April NCS & Back-Up NCS Schedule

April 5th:	April 12th:
Net Control: W5VEX	AD5SK
Back-Up: AD5SK	KD5FJF

April 19th:	April 26th:
Net Control: KD5FJF	KF5OHR
Back-Up: KF5OHR	KE5ISN



Texas State Parks On-The-Air Contest

After a year's hiatus due to the passing of this event's founder, TSPOTA returns to the air April 7th & 8th. Complete info and rules concerning this event can be found at: <https://www.tspota.org/rules>



Coryell County Joint Comm Group Meeting

The next meeting of the Coryell County Joint Comm Group will be on Tuesday, April 10th, at 11:30 AM at the Lil Tex Restaurant, 502 South Main Street, in Copperas Cove.



Rookie Round-Up

This event runs from 1800 UTC to 2359 UTC, Sunday, April 15th. This six-hour event is aimed at amateurs who have been licensed for 3 years or less. Rookies work everybody; non-rookies work only rookies. For further info on this, visit: <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

International Marconi Day

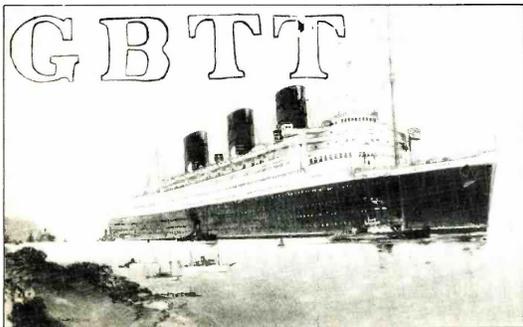
International Marconi Day is a 24 hour Amateur Radio event held annually to celebrate the birth of Guglielmo Marconi on April 25th, 1874. "IMD" is held each year on a Saturday close to Marconi's birthday, with this year's event being held on April 21st.

The event is not a contest, but rather an opportunity for amateurs around the world to make point-to-point contact with more than 50 stations around the world which are being set up at various historic sites with links to the inventors work.

Several special event stations will take to the air April 21st, from 0000 UTC to 2359 UTC, to commemorate the 2018 International Marconi Day.

This event offers a thrilling throwback to the days whenever a connected world was but a bold dream.

More information on this event can be found at: <http://gx4crc.com/gb4imd/>



QSL card from the *RMS Queen Mary* when it was an ocean going passenger vessel. Today it is moored in Long Beach, California as a hotel / museum ship. It can still be heard on the air waves over the amateur bands as W6RO. Visit: http://www.aralb.org/index_files/Page697.htm



FCC News Briefs

The town of Ward, Colorado is home to *Way High Radio* on a frequency of 90.5 MHz and is billed as "the longest-running 'pirate' radio station in the Rockies." Now the station has caught the attention of the FCC, who issued a notice of unlicensed operation, saying it must be shut down. The commission's records show that no license is issued for a broadcast station on 90.5 MHz at this location.

What's unusual, is that the notice was addressed to the town government itself. The station apparently operates from a trailer parked next to the town hall on the town's property.

Congress is considering authorizing more stringent radio fines to unlicensed 'pirate' broadcasters in the AM / FM entertainment broadcast bands, in a hearing known as the "PIRATE Act" (short for Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act) and giving the Federal Communications Commission additional authority to penalize pirate radio operators.

The proposed Act calls for an increased penalty for anyone who willfully participates in facilitating a pirate radio broadcast the penalty — which today is \$10,000 per violation — would potentially carry a fine of \$100,000 a day for each day of broadcast with a maximum fine of \$2 million. The proposed act would also give state and local governments the authority to impose additional civil or criminal penalties which would be on top of any existing FCC penalties.

The draft proposal of this act can be read at:

http://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF16/20180322/108059/BILLS-115pih-HR__U13.pdf



Shortage of EmComm Field Examiners

Field Examiners are ARRL accredited Volunteer Examiners who take on the additional responsibility to serve as Field Examiners for the ARRL Emergency Communications courses, conducting the exams for the EC-001 "Introduction to Emergency Communication Course".

As of this writing, there are only 81 Field Examiners in the entire State of Texas - and only a handful in the Central Texas Region.

The only requirements to become a Field Examiner, is to hold a General Class or higher Amateur Radio License and to be an accredited ARRL Volunteer Examiner. There are no other prerequisites.

If you possess these two requirements and would like to register to become a Field Examiner, visit:

<http://www.arrl.org/register-to-be-an-emergency-communications-field-examiner> and simply fill in the blocks.

You'll receive a message stating to allow up to 5 business days to process - *in my case, it took only 24 hours.* You'll then receive an email message confirming your approval as a Field Examiner.

No new credential is issued; instead, much like getting a radio license, it's a matter of being listed in their data base.



K5CRA Change of Venue

The Copperas Cove Repeater Association reports that they have out grown their meeting place at the Lil Tex Restaurant. Starting April 7th, the CCRA will hold their monthly breakfast meetings at Ches's Restaurant, 1807 East Hwy 190, in Copperas Cove.

Silent Key

Jeremy Montgomery - KD5EKI

It is with deep regret we record the passing of fellow amateur radio operator and co-founder of the Belton High School Amateur Radio Club (KG5PIV), Jeremy Montgomery-KD5EKI of Temple.

Jeremy passed away during the night of March 9th - less than 48 hours after being diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer. Memorials may be made to the Belton High School Amateur Radio Club, 600 Lake Road, Belton, TX 76513.



South Texas Section Manger Stepping Down

ARRL South Texas Section Manager Lee Cooper-W5LHC, has announced that he's stepping down as Section Manager due to time constraints and the workload associated with his business.

Paul Gilbert-KE5ZW, has been appointed to succeed Cooper, starting on April 1st, to complete the current term of office that continues through September 30th, 2019.



We need to take a road trip here... the Radio Coffee & Beer cafe in Austin.



IZ4AMS is active from New Caledonia until 4 April as **FK/5B4ALX**. QSL via his home call.

JH7IPR will be active from Koror Island, Palau, 13 - 19 April as **T88UW**. QSL via his home call.

F2JD is active from Honduras, until 10 May, signing **stroke HR5**. QSL via F6AJA.

VK5GR will be active as **YJØAG** from Efate Island, Vanuatu, 17 - 29 April. QSL via MØOXO.

G3RWL is active from Barbados, until 29 April as **8P6DR**. QSL via his home call.

UR5BCP will be active as **E51BCP**, from Rarotonga Island, 5 - 20 April. QSL via KD7WPJ.

VE3LYC will be active from the Duff Islands, 29 April - 3 May as **H4ØD**. QSL via his home call.

DC4CQ will be active signing **stroke 6W** from Senegal, 14 - 28 April. QSL via his home call.

A group will be active from the Russell Islands, 22 - 25 April as **H44R**. QSL via VE3LYC.

Special Event Station **GB6ØOT** will be active 14 - 22 April. QSL via G3KPU.

3D2AG will be active from Tuvalu, as **T2AR**, 1 - 8 April. QSL via his home call.

A group will be active as **3B7A** from Agalega & St Brandon, 5 - 17 April. QSL via F5CWU.

VK5MAV will be active signing **stroke 9** from Cato Reef, 9 - 18 April. QSL via RN3RQ.

A group will be active from Mozambique, 29 April - 3 May as **C96RRC**. QSL via R7AL.

A group will be active from Kosovo as **Z66D**, 15 - 22 April. QSL via OK6DJ.

WAØWOF will be active from Bhutan, 29 April - 5 May as **A52YL**. QSL via her home call.

AI5P will be active signing **stroke PJ5** from Sint Eustatius Island, 9 - 16 April. Then he will operate from Saba Island 28 April - 5 May, signing **stroke PJ6**. QSL via his home call.

Special Event Station **VD1BOOM** will be active 2 - 12 April from Bell Island. QSL via VO1IDX.

KH6QJ will be active from Christmas Island 17 - 24 April as **T32AZ**. QSL via his home call.

DJ9BN will be active from the Canary Islands, signing **stroke EA8**, 1 - 28 April. QSL via his home call.

DL6UAA is active as **3B8MM** from Mauritius until 11 April. QSL via his home call.

A group will be active from St. George Island, FL, as **W4P**, 14 - 15 April. QSL via W4UCJ.

A group will be active from Yeu Island 14 - 20 April as **TM3Y**. QSL via ON4ZD.

A group will be active from Couves Island 6 - 8 April as **PR2CI**. QSL via PY2AE.



Memorial Station W1MGY

The *Titanic* / Marconi Memorial Radio Association of Cape Cod will activate W1MGY, in recognition of the *Titanic*'s MGY call sign and to honor the approximately 1,500 passengers and crew who died in the sinking of the *RMS Titanic*. Operations will begin on Thursday, April 12, at 8 AM CDST and continue until Sunday, April 15, at 12:27 AM CDST — the time when *Titanic*'s last radio message was heard by the *Virginian* 106 years ago.

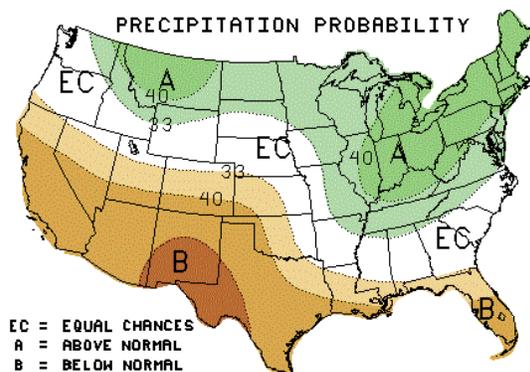
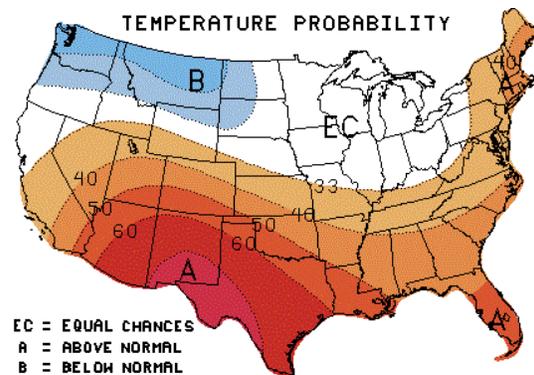


Spring Forecast Outlook

El Niño-Southern Oscillation continues to show La Niña conditions in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Latest model forecasts continue a slow trend toward neutral conditions by mid-spring. Weather conditions commonly associated with La Niña are expected to continue across the southern half of the nation as overall warmer and drier than average conditions linger. Spring is a temperamental season, as winter struggles to hang on against the inevitable building warmth that comes with the higher sun angle and increasing daylight. Given the volatility associated with changing seasons, expect the chances for extreme events.

Entering April a trend toward over-all warmer than average conditions is expected to begin. While most of the country will be warmer than normal for the spring as a whole, the season will get off to a slow and even wintry start for some areas. This will be especially true east of the Rockies and in the Pacific Northwest, where winter will take several parting shots before more consistent warmth can get established.

A more consistent warm pattern will become established but colder weather will still fight back at times along the northern tier of the country. Near, or slightly above-average conditions are anticipated from the Southwest and the central and southern Rockies to the southern Plains, lower Mississippi Valley and Southeast. Above-average warmth may be found this spring in the southern half of Texas, far southern Louisiana and South Florida.

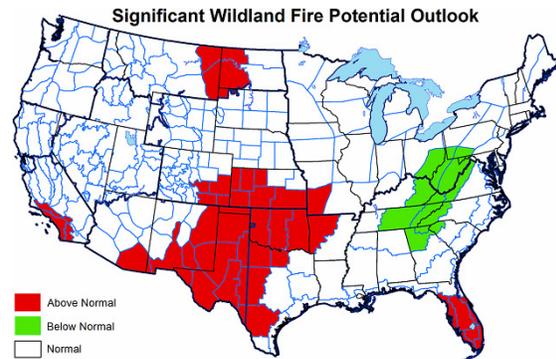


An active storm track is expected for the Upper Midwest, Great Lakes, Midwest and parts of the Northeast, bringing above normal precipitation to these regions. We do not expect more rainy days than normal, but the Gulf of Mexico and the western Atlantic Ocean are much warmer than normal and systems that tap into moisture from these regions will bring heavy rainfall at times. Therefore, flooding will continue to be a concern during the spring season.

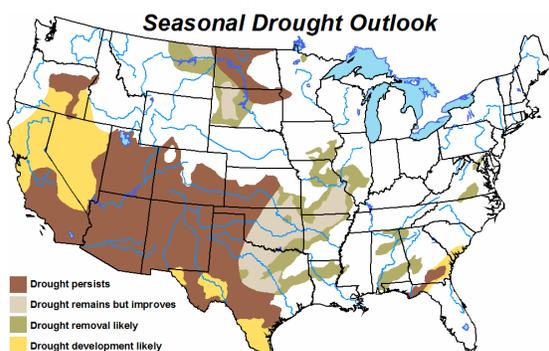
There are also indications that the northern Plains will have a wetter-than-normal spring, but confidence is lower in this region. While a wet spring is expected for parts of the northern third of the country, the bigger story of the spring may end up being the expanding and increasingly severe drought conditions across the Southwest and southern and central Plains.

A very warm and dry spring is expected across much of California, Texas, and Florida. An early start to the wildfire season and significant impacts to agriculture are likely. While Florida will likely see a wetter pattern as we head into summer, no relief is expected for California or Texas as a hot and dry pattern will get established early and dominate the spring and summer.

Wildfire activity is likely to increase in a manner typical to most years where pre-existing drought conditions and fuel loadings have promoted an environment favorable for above normal significant wildland fire potential. Periods of special concern will be highlighted by passing weather systems that create periodic strong, westerly, down-sloping winds. During such events, ignitions will be able to quickly become significant fires.



Elevated large fire potential is also expected to continue where pre-existing dry conditions have left fuels in a very dry state. As the Fire Season continues to increase in activity, conditions will gradually improve as green-up takes hold. The fire season activity will peak in May and June. Above normal significant large fire potential is expected across the southern tier of the region during this period as drought conditions intensify under the dry, building heat. In our region, conditions are expected to continue to be overall warmer and drier than average, this should lead to continued periods of elevated large fire potential.



The U. S. Drought Monitor products continue to show drought expansion and intensification across the southwestern quarter of the nation from central Texas and Oklahoma west to the Pacific Coast and from the Mexican Border north into Idaho and Oregon. Some improvement was observed across the central and northern Great Plains from Nebraska and northeastern Colorado north to the Canadian Border.

Overall improving conditions were observed across the East and the South. Recent dry conditions across the Deep South were not yet showing abnormal dryness in the drought products except across southern Georgia and Alabama. While some improvement is expected across East Texas and Arkansas, areas to the west will likely see a continuance or an intensification of the Severe Drought conditions.

Long range data suggest that a typical summer-like pattern will develop over the country in June as the Four Corners high pressure ridge begins to build over the west. This should help produce some early surges of moisture into the Southwest while promoting warmer and drier than average conditions elsewhere.

Local Radio's Value Demonstrated During Emergencies

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The local service of radio grows enormously in value when disaster strikes a community. This is what we've seen with the wildfires that have swept through the Northern California counties of Napa, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake and Solano. Fast moving and unpredictable, these deadly fires also took out communications infrastructure like cell towers, internet and cable TV, leaving radio as one of the most reliable sources of potentially life-saving information.

Commercial and non-commercial stations stepped up to offer emergency information to residents and first responders. Large Bay Area stations offered coverage, but often it was smaller, locally-owned stations that could better serve the hyper-local information needs. They were able to report the conditions on the ground in specific towns, cities and neighborhoods, from what roads were shut down, to what kind of donations were most in need at specific emergency shelters.

Napa-based "Sauvignon Rock" station KVYN, aired an emergency services press conference, and also ran a bilingual call-in show where residents could get answers regarding local emergency services. In addition, emergency information was broadcast on Sonoma Community Radio KSVY and country station KZST in Sonoma.

When cell phone towers were damaged and all cell phone communications (with the exception of satellite phones), and internet were unavailable over a two day period as a result of the Mendocino Lake Complex fire, KLLG and KZYX Public radio became the local sources of information in Willits.

KZST switched their stations' music programming to "wall-to-wall coverage." Staff at Redwood Empire studios even had to evacuate twice due to the fire threat, only to return when the flames receded.

KSRO ran 24/7 commercial-free news coverage for 72 straight hours, with virtually all the group's on-air people helping the news anchors with coverage, handling phones, feeding social media, etc. The coverage was noticed and appreciated. Listeners called in many times thanking them for the coverage. They almost had to re-learn the ultimate magic of local live radio.

Amateur radio operators also reported for duty, as they do during nearly every kind of disaster, natural or man-made. Ham radio operators were stationed at local hospitals and large nursing homes throughout the event in Mendocino County. In Sonoma County, amateur operators were relaying fire and emergency information on amateur radio frequencies, and also supporting shelters and maintaining a presence at the area's Emergency Operations Center.

What makes the difference are the people who step up to do the work, to broadcast information and create that lifeline when needed. One advantage that a radio station has is that community trust – the standing of being a community asset that folks trust due to a record of service. You might say that a local radio station is authenticated – you know (in most cases) that they're working hard to be accurate and reliable in their service, especially in trying times.

The 5-Band DX'ers Dipole

Popular Communications - April, 1983

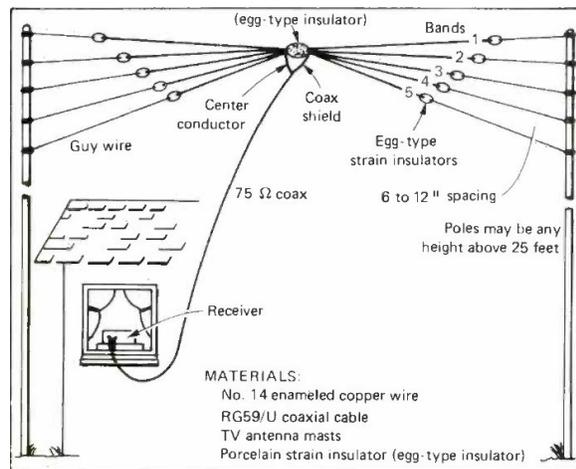
Which antenna to use for shortwave listening? There are random length long-wire antennas for all-around coverage, but they'll only resonant at a few frequencies and you end up with a compromise. And then there's the dipole. It will give optimum performance at its resonant frequency; that's the frequency to which it has been cut.

To cover the major bands, you'd have to have lots of dipoles and lead-in cables, plus a switching system to permit you to select the right antenna for your desired band at any given listening period. Our DX'ers Dipole is a better approach and will give you coverage on any five bands of your choice, with no switching or use of more than one single lead-in cable.

If you look at the basic diagram, you'll notice that the antenna is actually five dipoles connected at their mid-points where they attach to the feed line cable, a section of 75-ohm RG-59U coax.

When you are tuned to a specific frequency band for which a section of your antenna is cut, your receiver will obtain all of the benefits of that particular portion of the antenna; the others are sort-of disconnected from the antenna circuit. It needs no traps, no tuning units, and it has the same basic characteristics of a single-band dipole.

Keeping in mind the size limitations of your roof or yard, select from our chart any five bands. These can be any mixture of shortwave broadcast, utility, or Ham bands. If you are seeking a specific band which isn't shown in the chart, you can compute your own measurements by dividing a frequency (in MHz) in the middle of your favorite band into 468. Your answer will be the total length of the antenna in feet.



BAND (meters)	FREQUENCY (MHz)	LENGTH (ft., in.)
80	3.5	133-8
49	6.0	78-0
40	7.0	66-10
31	9.0	52-0
25	11.0	42-6
20	14.0	33-5
19	15.0	31-2
16	17.0	27-6
13	20.0	23-4
10	28.0	16-9
6	52.0	9-0

Before you actually do any cutting of wire, add another few inches to your computations. This is to compensate for the several inches of wire which will be required to connect the antenna to the insulators at each end. Use #14 copper wire for all of your dipoles.

For each of the five antennas, cut to the proper length as shown in the chart, or calculated by our formula. Cut each length of wire exactly in half.

Wrap the wires through the insulators, twist and solder them liberally. Solder the braid of the coax feedline to one side of the dipole(s), and the center conductor of the coax cable to the other side of the dipole(s). Insulate the solder joints to keep out moisture.



Lilian Vera Rolfe *Heroine of the SOE*

Lilian Vera Rolfe was the daughter of George Rolfe, a British chartered accountant who worked in Paris. As a young girl, her family came to England for summer school to learn English, as they spoke French at home. Eventually the family moved to Brazil; there she worked for the Canadian Embassy, but when World War II started she changed to the British Embassy and did courses in first aid and Morse code.

In 1943, she went to London, England to join the Women's Auxiliary Air Force. Because of her fluency in the French language, she was recruited into the Special Operations Executive, where she was trained as a wireless operator.

On 5 April 1944, she was dropped near the city of Orléans in occupied France. Her job was to transmit Marquis and other important radio messages to London. Beyond her wireless duties that included reporting on German troop movements and organizing arms and supply drops, she actively participated in missions with members of the French Resistance against the German occupiers and was involved in a gun battle in the small town of Olivet just south of Orléans.

Following the D-Day landings, an increasingly aggressive manhunt by the Gestapo led to the arrest of her superior officer. Nonetheless, Rolfe continued to work until her arrest at a transmitting house in Nargis on 31 July 1944. She was then transported to Fresnes Prison in Paris, where she was interrogated repeatedly and brutally tortured until August, 1944.



Then she was shipped to the Ravensbrück concentration camp. While there, Berlin had decided carry out systematic mass executions; the Allies were fast approaching and the Germans wanted to kill prisoners who had witnessed atrocities or who were considered 'important' and constituted a 'danger' to the German State.

According to an admission made by a German officer after the war's end, Lilian Rolfe was so ill that she could not walk. On 5 February 1945, at about 1900 hrs, 30-year-old Lilian Rolfe was carried by stretcher from her cell, to the yard behind the crematorium. Camp Commandant, SS Sturmbann Fuhrer Fritz Suhren, read the death sentence ordered by Berlin - and she was then shot in the back of the neck. Her body was immediately disposed of in the crematorium.

As to Fritz Suhren, he was arrested by the Americans in 1945. He managed to escape, was recaptured, escaped again, and was recaptured in 1949 by the British who handed him over to the French. Suhren was tried and convicted for war crimes by the French authorities, and was executed by hanging on June 12, 1950.