



SHACKNEWS

HIGHVELD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MARCH 2010

COMMUNICATION IS THE NAME OF THE GAME

Meeting There was no official meeting during the month. The next meeting is scheduled for 17 April. Subject matter will be forwarded nearer the time.

SSC Meeting This months meeting was held at the home of Berridge and Sandra on the 20 March. Quite a nice turn out of members and their wives. There was enough refreshments to cater for all tastes. Thanks to those who brought along extra goodies to eat and drink.

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First time sex

A girl asks her boyfriend to come over Friday night to meet, and have dinner with her parents. Since this is such a big event, the girl announces to her boyfriend that after dinner, she would like to go out and make love for the first time.

The boy is ecstatic, but he has never had sex before, so he takes a trip to the pharmacist to get some condoms. He tells the pharmacist it's his first time and the pharmacist helps the boy for about an hour.

He tells the boy everything there is to know about condoms and sex. At the register, the pharmacist asks the boy how many condoms he'd like to buy, a 3-pack, 10-pack, or family pack.

The boy insists on the family pack because he thinks he will be rather busy, it being his first time and all.

That night, the boy shows up at the girl's parent's house and meets his girlfriend at the door. "Oh, I'm so excited for you to meet my parents, come on in!"

The boy goes inside and is taken to the dinner table where the girl's parents are seated. The boy quickly offers to say grace and bows his head.

A minute passes, and the boy is still deep in prayer, with his head down.

10 minutes pass, and still no movement from the boy.

Finally, after 20 minutes with his head down, the girlfriend leans over and whispers to the boyfriend, "I had no idea you were this religious." The boy turns, and whispers back, "I had no idea your father was a pharmacist."

A simple but convenient universal car battery clamp

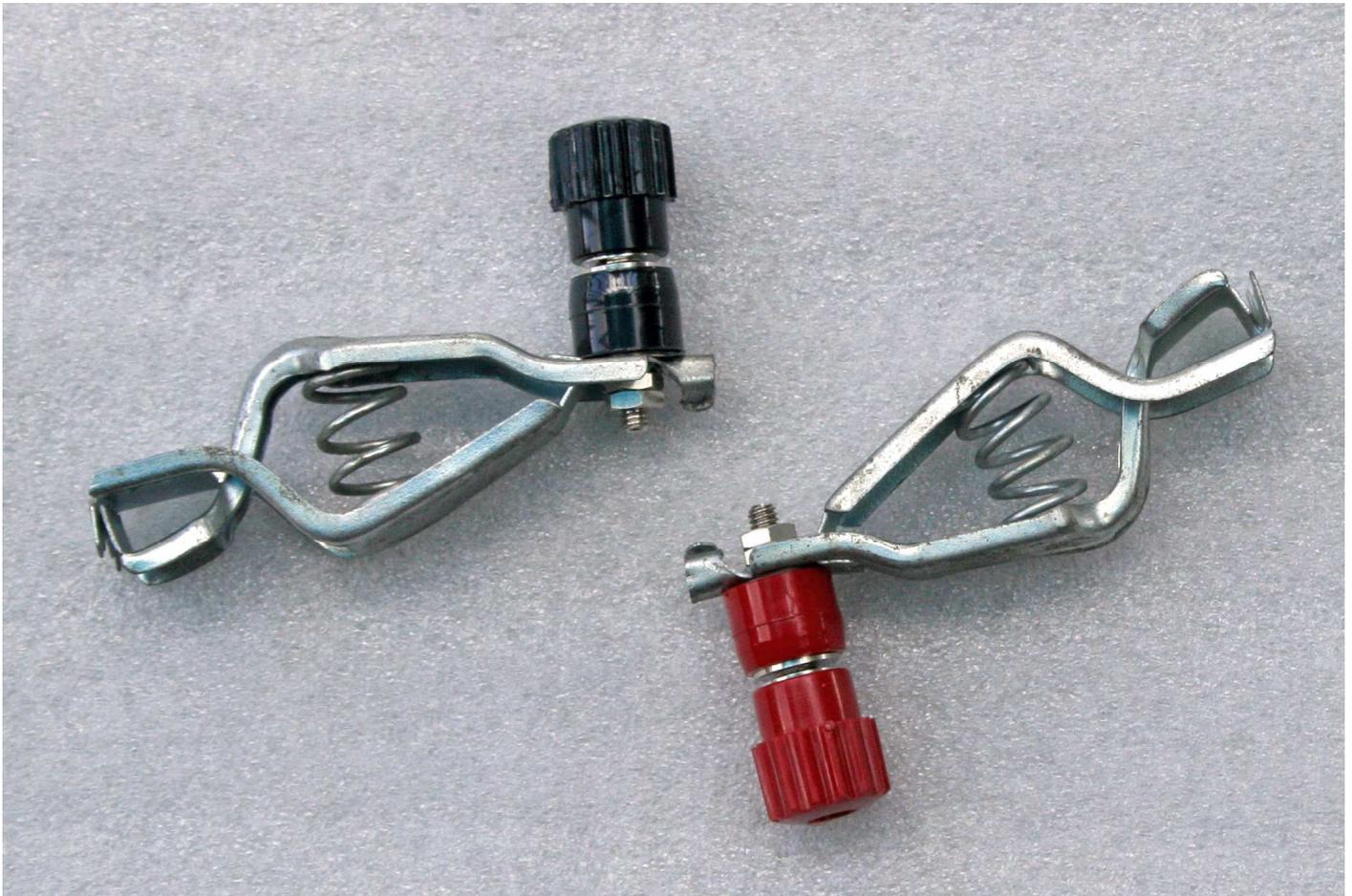
By Frank ZS6TMV/PA3GMP

While a standard car battery is not ideal for other applications than starting a car, it *is* sometimes the most convenient (or only) portable power source available - especially at the currents required by the average radio. Unfortunately the round pillar-type poles with which a car battery comes equipped are usually awkward when you want to make an impromptu connection with a wire that powers a radio or connects to some other 12V appliance.

I have found the solution in a pair of cheap battery clamps that happened to be in a box of junk that somehow ended up in the boot of my car after visiting a flea-market held at the QTH of OM Rex ZS6REX. (No idea how that happened - HI!) Such clamps may be obtained for a song from Midas or similar automotive accessory outlets.

I removed the (rather thin) wires that were crimped onto the clamps, and drilled a 3mm hole in the body of the clamp. In this hole I fitted a banana plug chassis mount (the stand-off type, see photo) simply by sticking the threaded rod of the stand-off through the hole, adding a locking washer (!) and fastening the nut. In my experience, this type of chassis mount will handle a few amps when used with a banana plug, and 20 amps or more (depending on the model and size of the chassis mount) when used with a lug.

Simply putting the clamps onto the car battery poles effectively gives you a 12V battery that will accept banana plugs or cables with lugs instantly. Making these clamps is a five minute job, and having them in the box somewhere could save you considerable headaches sometime in the future.



Tip: if this is too fancy a solution for you, then a pair of hose clamps will work at a pinch, too!

Interference generated in antennas, masts, connectors and filters

Nature of the problem. Where and how does interference occur?

It has been established that interference (intermodulation) may occur (be generated) in antenna systems. Such intermodulation may even be of various orders.

"Antenna systems" comprise everything from duplex filters, connectors, cables, combining devices, antennas, mast nuts and bolts, wires and other metal objects adjacent to the antenna where corrosion has occurred. This type of intermodulation is the most difficult to treat since it may occur sporadically depending on relative humidity. It can be difficult to detect and impossible to predict its magnitude since corroded connections may be numerous and have different characters.

Corrosion involves the formation of various metallic salts due to the atmosphere's content of sulphur, salt and other substances that readily react with various metals. These metallic salts are formed where two metals meet. An unfortunate effect of these metal salts is that they act as rectifiers – diodes – and can thus mix different frequencies – in other words generate intermodulation products.

Such mixing will occur if the transitional resistance between two different metals becomes high – because of poor assembly or corrosion penetrated in between the surfaces. By this "short circuit" of the diode disappears – and intermodulation products may occur.

How to identify corrosion interference

A simple way of ascertaining whether corrosion interference occurs in the duplex filter or the antenna system is to connect a long coaxial cable with about 10-20 dB attenuation between the output of the duplex filter and the antenna. If the intermodulation products are reduced by means of the connected cable, IM products are generated in the antenna system.

Dummy loads used in connection with circulators – 3 dB couplers and similar devices or components - can also generate intermodulation products. A method to determine whether the dummy load is causing problems is to connect a coaxial cable with about 10-20 dB attenuation between the dummy load and the device. If interference is reduced, the intermodulation products are generated in the dummy load.

The risk of intermodulation products in dummy loads increases considerably when the output limit of the dummy load is approached. Consequently, it is important not to use undersized dummy loads.

Due to impedance changes in the antenna system the emitted energy of an intermodulation product generated in a corroded connection in an antenna may be greater than the output returned to the duplex filter. So it may be necessary to use a selective antenna and a selective receiver to track down corrosion intermodulation products generated in antennas, antenna masts, wires and other metal objects adjacent to the transmitter antennas.

(found on the www)

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BEING THANKFUL

A rabbi said to a precocious six-year-old boy, "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?"

The little boy replied, "Thank God he's in bed!"

SAY A PRAYER

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served.

When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away.

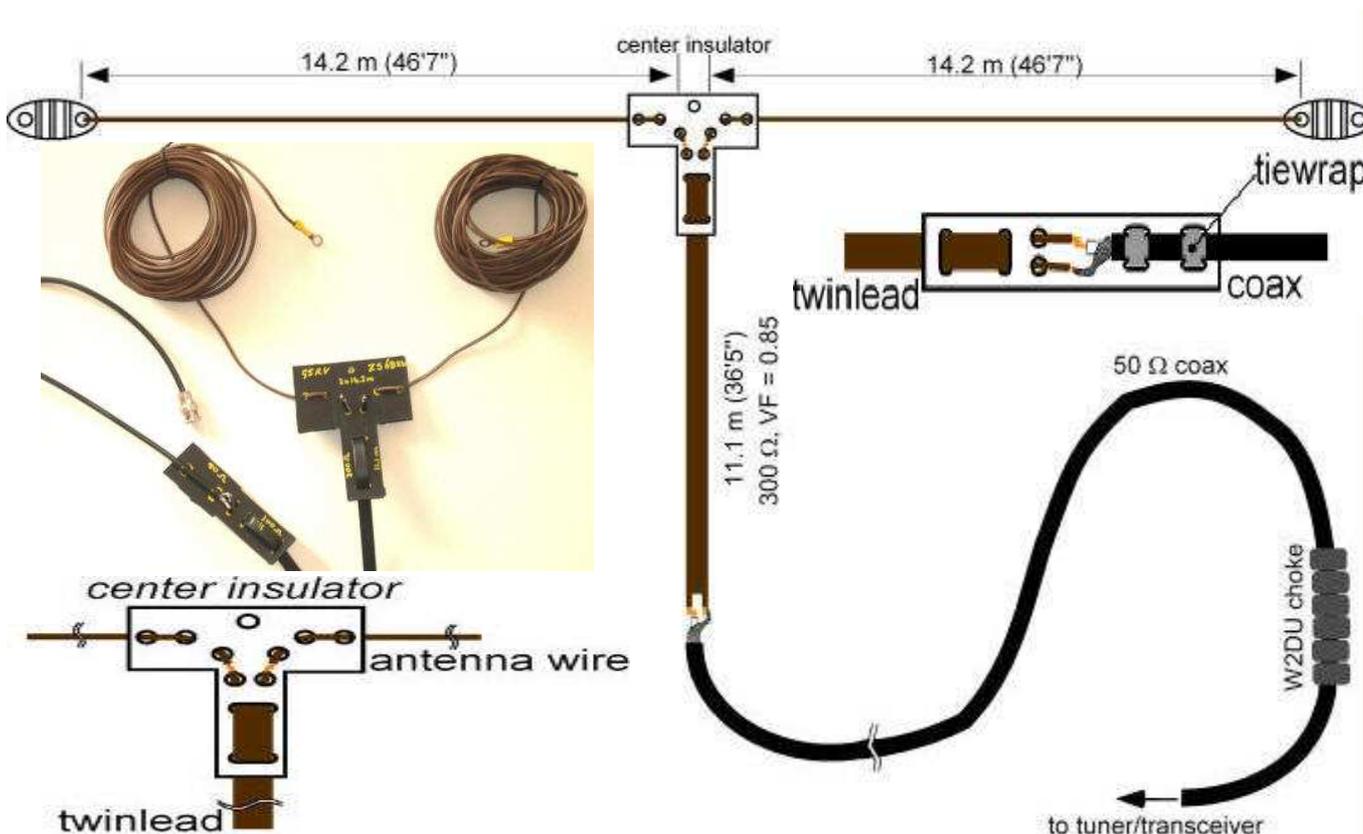
"Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer." Said his mother

"I don't have to," The boy replied.

"Of course, you do," his mother insisted. "We say a prayer before eating, at our house."

"That's our house,' Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!"

Some pictures of a G5RV antenna



CLUB INFORMATION

Postal address PO Box 19937 Sunward Park 1470

Website <http://www.qsl.net/zs6hvb/>

e-mail zs6hvb@gmail.com

Repeater 145.1875 MHz input - 145.7875 MHz output

Linked to 70 cm - 438.850 Mhz (Sunday bulletins)

Bulletins Sunday morning - 145.7875 MHz & 7062 KHz @ 08h45.
Relay - 80M - 3662KHz

Monthly meeting venue

Germiston Methodist Church
Coffee Bar
Lady Duncan Rd
Germiston

3rd Saturday of the month at 14:30

Committee

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