

# QRA NEWSLETTER

QUANNAPOWITT RADIO ASSOCIATION  
6 SAVIN STREET, BURLINGTON, MA 01803-2210

EMAIL: [AA1M@ARRL.NET](mailto:AA1M@ARRL.NET)

CLUB CALL: W1EKT

**ON THE WEB AT: [WWW.W1EKT.ORG](http://WWW.W1EKT.ORG)**

MAY 2019

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 9

**QRA WAS FOUNDED ON NOVEMBER 18, 1948  
IN WAKEFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS  
1948-2018, OUR 70th YEAR**

## CLUB OFFICERS

President – Don Melanson, KA1MAP  
Vice President – Mike Rioux, W1USN  
Secretary – Bob Reiser, AA1M  
Treasurer – Jeff Hollis, W1CKH  
Club Webmaster – Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES  
Club Call Trustee – Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES  
Nominating Committee- Barbara Day, KA1EDV  
QRA 2-Meter Net- Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES  
Tom Cefalo Jr.- W1EX  
Tim McNulty, K1TIM  
Field Day Committee- Walter Callahan, KC1ENI  
Jim Powers, KC1ENJ

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Watt, W1HN 2018-2019  
John Carrick, KB1YEF 2017-2019  
Tim McNulty, K1TIM 2017-2019  
Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES 2017-2019  
Education Committee- Jim Fisk, W1HL  
Membership committee - **VACANCY**  
Archives Trustee – Bob Reiser, AA1M  
Speaker Committee - Mike Rioux, W1USN  
John Carrick, KB1YEF  
Banquet Committee- John Carrick, KB1YEF  
Barbara Day, KA1EDV  
Jim Fisk, W1HL

## IS IT TIME TO PAY YOUR DUES ? STILL ONLY \$20.00

Dues can be paid to the club treasurer at the next meeting or sent to him at:  
QRA c/o Jeff Hollis, W1CKH, 46 Bond St., Reading, MA 01867-2432

## QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The QRA holds its membership meetings at the Reading, MA Senior Citizen Center at 49 Pleasant Street in the old fire house. All are invited and holding an Amateur Radio license is not required. Meetings begin around 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of each month, September through June. We have very interesting speakers. Come join us and bring a friend with you.

## MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND

This years Museum Ships Weekend will be held on Saturday June 1 and Sunday June 2. Anyone interested in operating can let Mike Rioux, W1USN or Me know. We will be operating CW and SSB from the radio rooms on the USS Cassin Young, DD 793 at the Charlestown Navy Yard, probably from around 10 am till 2 pm. We haven't decided which dates we will be operating. We have vehicle passes to enter the yard and park and will carry volunteers in. Without permits, all parking is outside the yard.  
Bob, AA1M

## GETTING LOADED (ANTENNA-WISE, ANYWAY)

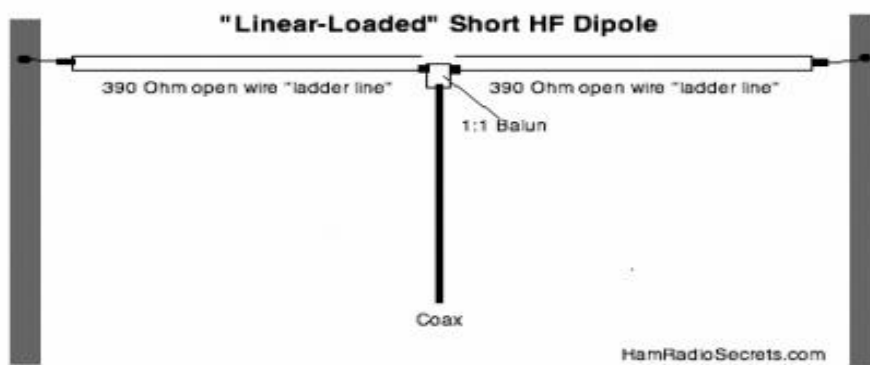
A couple of years ago, I homebrewed a "Cobra" antenna (<https://www.kb6nu.com/yet-another-new-antenna-the-cobra/>). It's a doublet antenna, meaning that it consists of two elements connected to a center insulator, where it connects to a feedline. The unique thing about the Cobra antenna is that each element consists of three parallel conductors connected in series.

My antenna uses a lightweight, three-conductor rotor cable that used to be available from Radio Shack. The feedline is 450  $\Omega$  ladder line that connects to an antenna tuner to give me multi-band operation.

Connecting the conductors in this way is supposed to provide "linear loading." Somehow, running the conductors in parallel is supposed to increase the antenna's effective length. My antenna is only 73-ft. long, but it easily tunes up on 80m.

The *ARRL Antenna Book* has a short section on linear loading. It says that linear loading is a "little understood" alternative to inductive loading that can be applied to almost any type of antenna. Furthermore, "...it introduces very little loss, does not degrade directivity patterns, and has low enough Q to allow reasonably good bandwidths."

As I mentioned, I've been using this antenna with good results for a little more than two years now. When I first put it up, someone mentioned the concept of linear loading to me, but not being an antenna guru, I didn't give it much thought. About a week ago, though, I ran across a link to the page Short Ham Antennas for HF (<https://www.hamradiosecrets.com/short-ham-antennas.html>). That got me thinking about the topic again.



This page describes a way to build a linearly-loaded dipole antenna with a feedpoint impedance of approximately 35  $\Omega$ . This allows you to feed it with coax instead of the ladder line that I use. The author uses 390  $\Omega$  ladder line for the elements. He says it's commonly available, but I don't think I've ever seen 390  $\Omega$  ladder line. You could probably use 450  $\Omega$  ladder line by adjusting the element lengths a little.

At that point, I started Googling. The next linear-loaded antenna design that I ran across is a design from M0PZT (<http://www.m0pzt.com/40m-linear-loaded-dipole/>). He built his elements from some sturdy wire and homebrewed spacers made from PVC pipe. He's used this design for the 40m elements of a fan dipole covering the 40m, 20m, 15m, and 12m bands. Only the 40m elements are linear-loaded.

I also found a design for a linear loaded vertical antenna for 40m and 80m (<https://www.qsl.net/pa3hbb/ll.htm>). This antenna is only 7.736m, or 25.4 ft. tall. Of course, it requires a good radial system to work well, but it will work a lot better for DX than a low doublet or dipole.

Finally, there's an eHam discussion on linear loading (<https://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php?topic=84418.0>). Unlike a lot of eHam discussions, this one is quite civil. It's worth reading if you're interested in the topic.

So, if you're thinking of getting loaded, errrrr, I mean loading your antennas, here's a method for you to consider. It works! By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

## **QRA IS ON THE WEB AT:**

**[WWW.W1EKT.ORG](http://WWW.W1EKT.ORG) and <http://www.facebook.com/QRAWolfPack/>**

## **Ham Radio Station For Sale**

**Kenwood TS-570D** 10 thru 160 Mtrs. Radio has optional YK-88C-1 CW filter and YK-88SN-1 SSB filter. Radio comes with the Kenwood MC-50 desk mic and a Bencher BY-2 Chrome Iambic Paddles.

Radio has Factory automatic antenna tuner and puts out 100 watts. Price is \$600.00 firm.

For more info please call Don KA1MAP 339-203-5166.

**Brian and the Shameless Wolf know technology. He can help you with your Computers, Networking, Printers, Home Theater, and even gadgets. Whether you're having problems with a virus, need a new hard drive, or just need to figure out which connector to plug your new DVD player into. The Shameless Wolf is here for you. So give the Wolf a call today for quick, affordable, and reliable technology services.**

**QRA members get 25% off labor when you mention this ad, compliments of Brian, WO1VES**

### **QRA ON FACEBOOK**

Join us on our combined Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/QRAWolfPack/> and keep up to date with information about QRA and the Wolf Pack Repeater System. Both are being run by Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES.

## **- ATLAS AERIAL IMAGING -**

*Residential & Commercial Real Estate Imaging - Bridge Inspections - Precision Measuring  
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**COME JOIN THE QRA 2-METER NET ON TUESDAY EVENINGS  
WA1RHN/R AT 7:30 PM ON 147.075  
FM/FUSIO \* PL Tone 151.4 - Echolink: WO1VES-R (813502)**

**KDA Custom Embroidery** is owned by QRA member Paul Anderson, KA1GIJ and his wife Kathleen. For over 20 years, Paul and Kathleen have been providing customized embroidery and screen-printing from their shop on Pearl Street in Reading. Names, monograms, call signs, logos and designs (stock or customized) can be stitched on hats, shirts, sweatshirts, polo-shirts and more. Purchase garments from them or provide your own.

Visit: [www.kdaembroidery.com](http://www.kdaembroidery.com), email to [kdace@aol.com](mailto:kdace@aol.com) or call Kathleen at (781) 942-0421.

### **APRIL QRA MEETING MINUTES**

The QRA April 2019 monthly membership meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm by club secretary Bob Reiser, AA1M in the absence of club president Don Melanson, KA1MAP and club VP Mike Rioux, WIUSN. Both had previously planned events to attend.

All were asked to introduce themselves to the group.

Secretary Bob reminded all about the upcoming medical procedure for Don, KA1MAP on Monday, May 20.

VP Mike, WIUSN will be at appointments for the next couple of Tuesday and Thursdays and will be unable to attend the QRA meetings.

All were reminded to sign into the attendance sheet.

Club treasurer Jeff Hollis, WICKH gave a report on the club treasury. As of the beginning of this meeting, the balance was \$1600.00.

Our speaker for the evening was member Brian Gudzevich, WO1VES. Brian gave a very good talk explaining the different Digital Ham Radio and internet connections available to the Ham community.

Secretary Bob noted there will be open nominations for club officers and BOD members at the May meeting. Bob also noted the club needs volunteers for managers for the nominating committee, Annual June Banquet and Field Day. (Note: members Jim Fisk, W1HL and Tim McNulti, K1TIM volunteered to manage the Banquet.

Bob also reminded all that there is a strong invitation from the Nashua club to our members to attend and operate at their Field Day. (They always have a large attendance at this event).

Brian, WO1VES reminded all about the Tuesday evening QRA 2 meter net held on the Stoneham repeater 147.075, tone 151.4 starting at 7:30 pm.

A quick auction of items from the estate of Mike Riordan, W1HFR donated by Jim Fisk, W1HL.

There were 17 members and guests attending.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm. (Bob Reiser, AA1M)

**NEXT QRA MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS THURSDAY**

**MAY 16, 2019**

**AND WILL BEGIN AT**

**\*\*\* 7:00 PM \*\*\***

**AT THE READING SEMIOR CITIZEN CENTER ON PLEASANT STREET, READING, MASS.**

**COME JOIN US AND BRING A FRIEND ALONG**

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