

Ed VA7BN Antenna:

As promised, I contacted my old friend Ed VA7BN in Creston about his antenna system. He was good enough to send me the details on it and I will include his note and some pictures below. A little history on Ed might be in order. I have known Ed since 1966. He is the son of a good friend of mine Manny VE7ARG sk. Manny and I were licensed on the same day, and I received VE7ARF and he was issued VE7ARG. I worked with Ed in Ucluelet B.C. in the fishing industry at Raytech Services which was a very busy marine electronics shop on the west coast. We became lifelong friends and have had many adventures over the years. Ed got his ham license while in Ucluelet and when I moved to Lethbridge in 1976, he followed me out here and we both worked for Canbra Foods until I moved to California in 1989. He became a mainstay in the club and is known by many hams here in this area. A good friend and colleague that I have had the pleasure to know for over 50 years.

When I returned to B.C. from California in 1991, I was issued another call and when Manny passed away, I contacted his wife and asked if I could honour his memory by perpetuating his call as my own. She heartily agreed and I adopted VE7ARG. When I moved back to Alberta, I was fortunate enough to bring the call to six land and became VE6ARG and have held that call ever since in honour of my good friend Manny.

Many years ago, Ed bought some land just north of the US border south of Creston and has been putting an amazing signal out to the world with his long wire antenna using low power. He has described what it is in the following narrative. I hope you like it:

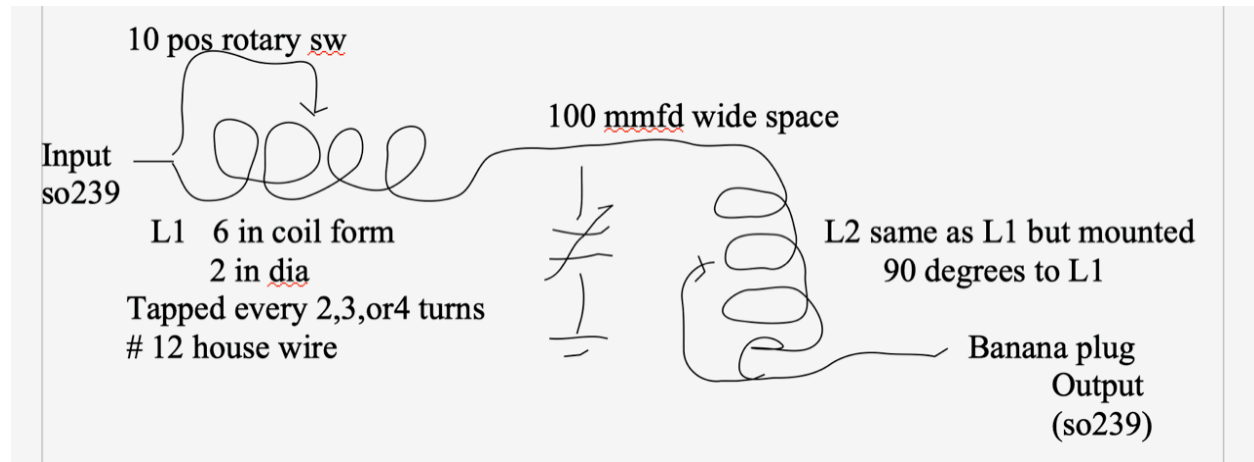
Greetings to All.

I have received many favorable comments on the performance of this antenna using 10 watts of transmitter power on 80 meters. My station is located south of Creston, BC on the edge of the Lister plateau, about a half mile from the US border (Rykerts/Porthill).

To the east is a mountain ridge about 3 miles away and at 15 degrees elevation. To the west is a mountain range about 4 miles away and at 10 degrees elevation. Propagation wise, being in the middle, I get excellent coverage to the east and west.

The horizontal half wave section of the antenna is oriented true north and south, broadside east and west, and is 20 ft above ground, the open end facing south. There is a quarter wave section from the north end which leads away from the mast to a ceramic feed thru insulator on the side of the ham shack. The wire is # 12 hard drawn copper. Inside the shack, a short (1ft) jumper connects to the output of the "line tuner" which is mounted in a 19 in rack adjacent to the wall where the feed thru is located. The radio is connected via 3 ft of coax to a power meter which connects to a coax switch (another 3 ft of coax) then to the line tuner (2 ft of coax). (Total of 8 ft of coax to the line tuner)

Now for the fun.....A Line Tuner???? (It's a glorified L network?) Hmmmm all on the back of a 4" by 19" aluminum plate in the 19-inch rack. Here's a drawing of it:



This arrangement tunes 1 full wavelength from the tip of the antenna to the radio and covers the whole band.....doesn't get much better!

Here's some pictures of the arrangement:

My new neighbours.



The antenna farm showing the long wire and the dipole I sometimes use.

The radio shack is nestled in between some other out buildings.



Inside the shack and the business end of things. Notice the racks at the end of the desk.

And my workbench on the other side of the room. Compact and useful.

Hope you found this interesting. It shows what can be done with a small space.

73

Ed VA7BN

