



# River City ARCS

River City Amateur Radio Communications Society



June, 2012

<http://www.n6na.org/>

Vol. 32 no. 6



Ed Seigner WA6QYO demonstrates Lecher lines. You can see it on Youtube at:  
[onhttp://www.youtube.com/RiverCityARCS](http://www.youtube.com/RiverCityARCS)

## 144 MHz Halo antenna

To stack my two halo antennas, two identical  $0.75 \lambda$  lengths of RG-11/U 75 ohm coaxial cable were prepared for the stacking harness. After trimming to achieve zero ohms reactance over 144 to 145 MHz, each of my cables measured exactly 40.5 inches from tip to tip. This measurement may vary slightly due to variations in the velocity factors among different batches and manufacturers of cable. The two lengths of RG-11/U cable are joined with a UHF Tee connector to form the stacking harness.

[144 MHz Halo Antenna Construction & NEC Model](#)

Carol KP4MD

## NOTICE !

### JUNE MEETING

Due to the elections the June meeting is on June 6th. at 7:30pm at the Sacramento County Corp. Yard,  
5026 Don Julio Blvd (corner of Elkhorn Blvd)

### Field day

Field day this year is June 23-24. The club site is Dry Creek Ranch in Rio Linda. Andy W6AWS will lead the kick off session for Field day.

Further details at:

<http://www.n6na.org/fieldday>

### Linda Cardoza KI6OLC

Linda is in Mercy General Hospital. Linda is being treated for internal bleeding from an ulcer. It is unknown at this time just how long she will be there.

### Larry Fibich AF6LF

Larry spent a night in ICU at Mercy San Juan. Larry was working on his RV when the ladder collapsed and he hit his head on the driveway. He is OK now but has a headache and vertigo and orders to do "nothing" for a couple of weeks.

Please keep Linda and Larry in your thoughts and prayers.

**CLUB INFORMATION**

DUES: \$20.00 Per year

ADDRESS: PO Box 233692, Sacramento CA 95823

MEETINGS: Membership meetings are generally held on the first Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M., at the Sacramento County Corporation Yard, corner of Don Julio and Elkhorn Blvds.

Board of Directors meetings are held the fourth Tuesday at 7:00 pm. All members are welcome.

Contact a board member for location.

Web Site: [www.n6na.org](http://www.n6na.org)

E-mail: [n6na@arrl.net](mailto:n6na@arrl.net)

Contact club through the web page at:

<http://www.n6na.org/about>

**N6NA Repeaters**

**145.250 MHz (-162.2)**

**442.600 MHz (+100) - Offline**

**(Due to Pave Paws issue)**

**2M Club Net - Members and Guests**

**Check In on 145.250 MHz**

**Wednesday at 8 PM**

**10M Club Net - Members and Guests**

**Check in on 28.420 MHz**

**following 2M net**

**SSTV Club net - Members and Guests**

**Check in on 145.51 MHz FM Simplex**

**Following 10M net.**

<http://www.n6na.org/nets>

**OTHER NETS**

Noon Time Net is on the W6AK/R at  
146.910 (-) 100 PL.

**2012 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES****Board of Directors**

President Dr. Carol Milazzo, KP4MD

Vice President Don Kunkel, KE6GMJ

Secretary Larry Fibich, AF6LF

Treasurer Paul Grose, N6DRY

Membership Linda Cardoza, KI6OLC

**Board Members:**

2 year Term Robert Hicks, K6VSS

2 year Term Ed Siegner, WA6QYO

2 year Term Bob Wortman, WB6VYH

2 year Term Jason Lager KF6QXX

**Appointments:**

N6NA Trustee Steven Bird KM6YU

VE Liaison Need volunteer

Training Ed Seigner, WA6QYO

Editor Ken Martin, KE6RMN

Sound Paul Grose, N6DRY

Sales Mary Ann, KE6EST

Field Day Need volunteer

Picnic Chair Need volunteer

**2012 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Membership Meetings: May 1, Jun 5  
For 2011 all membership meetings will be held on the 1st Tuesday of each month.  
Board Meetings: May 22, Jun 22

Membership meeting Wed. June 6

Field day June 23

Board Meeting June 26

Membership meeting July 3

Board Meeting July 31

**NEW RADIO CLUB IN SOUTH AREA**

There is a new radio club in the south area of Sacramento it is the Elk Grove - Florin Amateur Radio Club  
<http://egfarc.org>

They hold monthly meetings on the second Saturday of every month at the LDS Church located on the corner of Elk Grove Florin Road & Vintage Park Drive. The meeting time is at 7pm PST and all are welcome.

They hold a 2m net a weekly net each Saturday except for the second Saturday of the month.  
 Time: 7 PM PST Frequency: 147.555 simplex

**DAYTON**

Ed Seigner WA6QYO attended the Dayton Hamvention. There were over 300 sellers in the parking lot, he says he saw them all.

I am sure he had a good time and got some goodies.  
 Here are some pictures.

**HISTORIANS CORNER**

From the May 1981 RCARCS Newsletter

**SUGGESTIONS TO BRING ALONG FOR FIELD DAY:**

You may want to use the following list:

First and foremost bring yourselves and your family, also antennas

towers,

coax,

guy wires,

rope,

working rigs,

tuners

SWR/Watt meters, fuses, tool kits,

mikes,

keyer,

extension cords,

soldering iron,

solder,

flashlights,

toilet tissue,

suntan lotion,

insect repellent,

shovel,

ax,

hammer,

stakes,

sleeping bag,

warm clothing,

fuel for stoves, generators, extra gas,

food and drink, water for washing, drinking,

contact cleaner,

WD-40,

soap,

towels and washcloths,

dishes, plastics,

portable tables,

folding chairs,

batteries,

first aid kits,

large plastic waste bags,

coffee and cold drinks.

----

What would you add or remove now?

## So your husband is a ham.

So your husband is a ham. That doesn't seem so bad, does it? It's a fairly quiet hobby, conjuring up images of our sturdy turn-of-the-century grandfathers, spending countless evenings building pieces of radios out of odd bits of wire, strange objects and vacuum tubes. You think of quiet men, hunched over softly glowing radios, tapping out messages to stations around the world long into the night. An idyllic picture, right?

You're living in a dream world, lady. They buy their radios wired now, in shiny metal boxes with built-in "auto tuners" (whatever they are). They get their power from the wall outlets around the house by converting what powers everything else in the world to 12 VDC using a silent, heavy box connected to this tiny, light radio with blinking lights and unintelligible squeals. To call this hobby wireless flies in the face of the maze of tangled wires and cables growing behind the radios and stretching to the outside world. It seems as though if all the wires were connected end to end they would reach the other station, eliminating the need for the radio. Don't ask why they can't just pick up the phone to talk to someone. We're living with the radio pioneers - people bypassing 21st century technology to get the temperature in the next county.

Ham radio generates a mysterious assortment of debris. Tiny strands of braided copper wire weave themselves into the carpet, along with tiny silver "solder birds" that hold tenaciously to the carpet that no amount of vacuuming can dislodge. Odd coils of wire catch your feet as you carefully step through the tangle, only to halt your progress just as you reach the door. The cat no longer will enter the "radio room" now that she has that odd burn mark on her nose. The mere sound of code sends her scurrying for distant shelter. And there's that strange, not unpleasant, smell that often appears - only to dissipate as quickly as it appeared.

The tangle of wires and cables snakes its way to the outside world so that the house slowly becomes covered with a web of aluminum tubing and copper wire that threatens to encompass the neighbor's houses if not frequently pruned. You've witnessed the sounds and sight of the old ham radio adage that "If your antennas didn't come down in the last storm, they aren't big enough!" and the equally disturbing saying that antennas put up in blinding snow storms actually work better than those erected on warm sunny days.

Even the car isn't immune from this forest of antennas, as it assumes the appearance of a porcupine with its ever-growing assortment of slim, quivering whips sprouting from all flat surfaces. Woe be it to the wife who questions the need for a 9-foot "Texas Bug Catcher" firmly bolted to the rear bumper. As the dashboard becomes festooned with "remote heads" (?) with their attached coiled microphones poised, ready to strike. With tangles of wires snaking across the floorboards the radios squeak and burp their way to life with each turn of the key.

This is not the end of your problems. There are frequent expensive trips to the radio store, and even more expensive hamfests in faraway cities. There are flea markets, which are some not-so-little groups of hams who get together occasionally to swap various pieces of non-working equipment and complain about their wives and children who unreasonably take money away from radios for food and clothing. These hams may meet in church basements, legion clubs and occasionally in parking lots for these rites of redemption and trading. They may even come to your house and take over the garage for less formal swaps. Your presence in the house won't intimidate them. Beware the dreaded trip to Mecca - Dayton. A gathering so dangerous as to bankrupt even the most well-equipped ham.

Ham radio also tends to attach itself to other areas of the house, such as the computer. While hams happily keyboard their way to contacts using ever more esoteric methods beyond voice and code their wives give up email with friends and family and the children forgo homework assignments. Pity the wife who finds her microwave oven pressed into service for the VHF contest.

Ham radio also tends to take up more and more of the house. Sure, your husband might decide at some point that he has enough radios. I've never seen this myself, but it could happen. More likely, your home will become a candidate for that TV show where some poor fellow's dead body is found under a collapsed pile of old newspapers. In your case, it will be a tower of radios and old power supplies.

As far as I know, there is no twelve-step program for hams, but you may avoid codependency by following these tips:

1. Set up a space outside the living area for the ham equipment and antenna storage. We have refinished the basement, and we are moving everything down there. Other wives have contracted for pole barns, rented industrial space, or moved to another city under an assumed name.
2. Have your husband make a small business out of his hobby. Internet sales can be lucrative. They might even partially make up for the enormous sums he spends. Very important: Do not participate in the business yourself. First thing you know, you'll be maintaining complicated radios, acting as a handmaiden, and dealing with the post office. You have better things to do.
3. Don't be tempted to accompany your husband to hamfests, thinking that time together will add spark to your relationship. You won't see him all day. You'll wander around aimlessly among the booths, finding nothing remotely interesting. Sure, you could meet other lost wives, and find camaraderie in the nearest bar. Usually, though, a man in a vest with radios in every pocket will mistake you for a vendor. He will try to hustle you for free samples.
4. Don't try to distract your husband with other activities, such as yard work, barbecuing or the kid's sports. Though he may have done these things in the past, that's all over now. Ham radio is his life. Accept your fate. Learn to solder and crank up the tower. Get a hobby of your own. You could join a quilting club, preferably - or learn simple home repair skills. Then build a pole barn and move into it yourself.

Finally, remember you are not alone. There are plenty of other ham-widows out there.