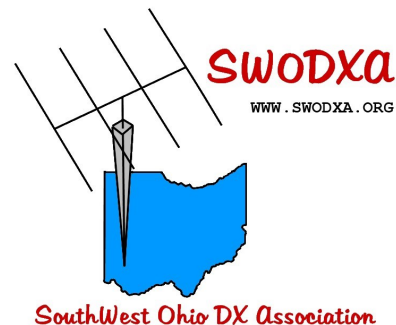




the exchange



2025 Officers

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The Prez says.....

Happy New Year! Hope you are on the air, keeping warm and busy!

I wanted to make an announcement. Mindi Jones, KC8CKW, is the DXDinner® chairman. If you have any questions, you can start with her. As a secondary source of information, you can contact me.



Speaking of the DXDinner, Icom has again agreed to donate an IC-7610 for the dinner grand prize and an IC-705 for the raffle ticket prize. Please stop by the Icom booth to let them know how much we rely on these donations and how much we appreciate their contributions.

The meetings over the next several months are very important. Here is a summary:

Feb— Start thinking about the W80K and DXPedition/ DXPeditioner of the Year award.

March— Nominations for DXPedition of the Year/ DXPeditioner of the Year and the W80K award will be taken. Also, this is the deadline for the Club DX Contest.

April— We will also vote on the DXPedition/ DXPeditioner of the Year award.

May— Presentation of W80K Award, Announcement of Club DX Winners, final meeting before the dinner!

There is a lot going on. Hope to see you at the meetings, either virtually or in person!

73 and Gud DX

AJ8B => Bill

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SWODXA 2024—2025 Calendar

February 2025

8-9 CQWW WPX RTTY
13 SWODXA Meeting
 15-16 ARRL DX CW
 21-23 CQWW 160M SSB

August 2025

9-10 WAE DX CW
 23 Ohio QSO Party

March 2025

1-2 ARRL DX SSB
13 SWODXA Meeting
 29-30 CQWW WPX SSB

September 2025

6-7 All Asian DX SSB Contest
 13-15 ARRL Sept. VHF Contest
11 SWODXA Meeting
 13-14 WAE DX SSB Contest
 27-28 CQWW RTTY

April 2025

10 SWODXA Meeting

October 2025

9 SWODXA Meeting
 25-26 CQWW DX SSB

May 2025

8 SWODXA Meeting
16 SWODXA DX Dinner
 16-18 Dayton Hamvention
 24-25 CQWW WPX CW

November 2025

1-2 ARRL SS CW
13 SWODXA Meeting
 15-16 ARRL SS SSB

June 2025

12 SWODXA Meeting
 14-16 ARRL VHF
 21-22 All Asian CW
 28-29 ARRL Field Day

December 2025

5-7 ARRL 160M CW
11 SWODXA Meeting
 13-14 ARRL 10M
 27-28 Stew Perry 160M CW

July 2025

12-13 IARU HF Championship
 19-20 CQWW VHF

January 2026

3-4 ARRL RTTY Roundup
8 SWODXA Meeting
 18-19 ARRL January VHF
 23-25 CQWW 160M CW

Upcoming Club Dates and Topics

Meeting Date	Topic
Thursday, February 13th, 2025	FLEX 8000 Series VA3MW—Mike Walker
Thursday, March 13th, 2025	POTA & SOTA—K4SWL— Thomas Witherspoon
Thursday, April 10th, 2025	All about RTTY and RTTY Contesting -W0YK—Ed

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We Have A Meeting Place!!

We received numerous recommendations from members as to a new meeting place. Ken, KB8KE, call over 2 dozen different locations looking for a meeting place for at 25 people, an internet connection, monitor, and good food that was reasonably priced.

Several members recommended the winner and Ken agreed after talking to them AND stopping by for lunch. The winner is



Bourbons is located in Middletown at 2231 Verity Parkway. It is about 7.5 miles from I-75. <https://www.bourbonskitchenmiddletown.com/>

We are only on the hook for February, but Ken did reserve it through March. Just ask for the SWODXA room when you arrive. They will take your food order at your table.

If you like it, we can stay. If there are other venues we should try, just let us know.

Thanks to all of you who sent in suggestions and to Ken for doing all of the “leg work”.

8th Area QSL Buro Update

Up until now, the ARRL reimbursed Bureau managers for expenses to maintain a Post Office box and forward QSLs received from the ARRL and foreign bureaus to its sorters. Although some bureaus were notified in July of this change it was never confirmed 100% until December of 2024 from Sharon Taratula from the ARRL that they are no longer funding the incoming QSL bureaus.

As the W8 Incoming QSL Bureau Manager, I am appealing to 8th area users to help the Bureau in its time of greatest financial need. I am also contacting other radio clubs in the W8 District and appealing for their help as well.

The W8 QSL bureau is not part of any club. The WC8VOA club in West Chester OH provides a room for sorting and does not charge for its use. The club members graciously sort the cards. Until now I relied totally on the ARRL to pay for the expenses of the PO Box, shipping and supplies.

My total expenses for 2024 amounted to approximately \$1100.00 which is about 7/10 of a cent per ARRL member.

From January through December of 2024, we processed over 210 pounds of cards which represents approximately 32,000 QSLs and forwarded them to the W8 Bureau sorters in several shipments. After learning about the possible change in ARRL reimbursement policy, adjustments were made to lower these expenses by reducing the number of QSL shipments per year. In addition, shipping labels purchased from pirateship.com have been used exclusively, saving 60% of USPS retail shipping costs.

Given the above, I hope you will consider donating at least \$10-\$25 (or more!) to jump start a wider donation drive that will follow and be directed toward W8 QSL Bureau users and clubs in the 8th area.

Donations to the W8 Incoming QSL Bureau should be sent to :
8th AREA QSL BUREAU, PO Box 307 West Chester OH 45071-0307. You can also use paypal , w8buro@gmail.com

If you need another payment method, please contact me at N8DX@ARRL.net

Also, if you are a W8 QSL Bureau user and are dissatisfied with the ARRL's action to stop reimbursement of Incoming QSL Bureaus, you are encouraged to contact your ARRL Division Director and make your feelings known.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me directly.

Jack Shirley, N8DX— N8DX@ARRL.NET

ARRL Eight Call Area Incoming QSL Bureau

From Our DX Friends

Hello Bill,

I have just started reading your latest issue and came across the 'it seems to us' letter.

Even before digital modes surfaced, DXCC was not a level playing field. For stations with identical setups, where you are in the world makes a difference, and there has always been a difference in effectiveness between CW and SSB anyway, so it seems strange to single out data modes.

I was licensed in 1970 and thanks to aggressive local councils have never managed anything beyond 100w into a low wire. But I managed over 200 DX countries confirmed over the years.

If you draw a circle on the earth, centered on the UK, with its circumference passing through the Caribbean there are well over 100 countries within that circle. On 20m SSB, even with 100W to a wire, working into the Caribbean is easy if the band is anything like decent. So I can make DXCC by only covering about 25% of the earth's surface.

Compare that to a USA amateur right in the middle of your huge country. He/she will need to be able to radiate a decent signal much further than that so for someone in the center of USA without a beam and linear, DXCC really is an achievement.

For me, back then, not so much, once I realized how much more effective CW was. Although the current levels of electrical QRM on our little island makes it more difficult now, and I certainly wouldn't be able to get the 5 band DXCC I got in 1986 because a lot of the QSO were pretty marginal. Especially the one time i *just* managed to work a ZL on 80m. I just wouldn't hear them now.

But old habits die hard and despite having earned a crust in IT towards the end of my working life I've never been able to summon up any interest in data modes.

regards

David (G3ZPF)

RAOTA President www.raota.org

PS: It may seem strange but that ZL QSO is not the QSL I treasure most. That honour goes to a 1979 qso with WA2DFN, on 15m. He must have been very young and I was the first person outside the US he'd managed to work. I've attached a PDF of his QSL and the accompanying letter indicates the excitement he and his parents felt.

From Our DX Friends

What started out for me as a routine QSO into Fredonia, NY, on 15m became a hugely poignant moment for us both. That callsign doesn't seem to be listed now and I sometimes wonder where life took him after that.

WA2DFN			
86 Newton Street			
Fredonia, New York 14063			
QSO	<u>G3ZPF</u>	Time	<u>2017-30z</u> Date <u>4/28</u>
Band	<u>15</u>	M	Frequency <u>21356</u>
Report	<u>55+ / 57</u>	Mode	<u>55B</u>
	<small>S</small> / <small>R</small>		
James Mohney Jr.			

<p>David, Thanks for the fine QSO. Rig is Swan 350G with Hustler 4B+V ant. One I found your address, I had to find out how to send it to you. (I'm new at this) Thanks again 73^s Jim</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PSE QSL</p>	<p>G3ZPF DAVID Dunbly England</p>
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The Islands on the Air Program – An Introduction

Jeff Cantor, K1ZN

This article is reprinted with the permission of CQ Magazine and the author. It originally appeared in CQ Magazine, November, 2018, when sunspots were not as plentiful as they are now. It is still a good refresher.



Islands On The Air



Those of us who play on the HF bands find ourselves at the mercy of a low in the sunspot cycle. On a daily basis, the bands seem awfully quiet. DXpeditions consider the band conditions and the likelihood of fewer QSOs when deciding on an expenditure of funds for such an outing. For those of us who chase DXCC and similar awards, many are close to, at, or over the magic number of 340 confirmed entities. So, all-in-all, what do we do when in front of the radio? The IOTA (Islands On The Air) Program (Logo above) is an amateur radio HF/NHF activity program, with awards administered by Islands On The Air (IOTA), Ltd., in partnership with the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB). Initially established in 1964, this program promotes radio contacts with stations located on islands around the world to encourage greater use of the amateur bands, and to do this, it draws on the widespread mystique surrounding islands.

IOTA Groups

The IOTA program has organized the world's ocean islands into over 1,000 "IOTA groups," with, for reasons of geography, varying numbers of qualifying islands (termed "counters") in each group. For example, Hawaii or the Hawaiian Islands is OC-019 in the IOTA program and contains multiple counters, these being: Hawaii, Kahoolaw, Kauai, Kuala, Lanai, Lehua, Manana, Maui, Mokuauia, Mokuhooniki, Mokolua Islands, Molokai, Mokolini, Niihau, and Oahu. The objective is to make and confirm a two-way radio contact with at least one counter in each of the groups. Currently, the IOTA program is locked at 1,200 island groups worldwide. Presently there are 22 different award certificates available in the program. The basic award requires proof of contact with 100 IOTA groups. Each group is assigned a unique IOTA designator number.

Defining an IOTA Island

What constitutes an island for IOTA program purposes? Every island must meet certain basic criteria for acceptance within the IOTA program. Specifically, it must be:

- located in the open sea, not a lake or river, and must be natural (not manmade);
- must be demonstrably above water at high tide; and
- must have a recognized island name!

There is no minimum island size requirement; but ...

- ◊ an island needs to be shown and named on either Google Earth or another officially recognized reference map. And...
- ◊ the island must be separated from the mainland at low tide by at least 200 meters (656 feet) of sea measured at the narrowest point. Connection to the mainland by bridge does not invalidate an island so long as the minimum sea separation is met.



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Operating requirements:

There are two categories of participants in the IOTA program: island activators who set up and operate from a recognized IOTA island, and island chasers, who collect contacts with as many islands as they can. For island chasers the main requirements for valid contacts are that they should be made:

- ◇ in conformity with the operator's licensing conditions;
- ◇ by the operator personally;
- ◇ from the same DXCC entity and from a land-based location;
- ◇ dated since 15 November 1945; on any bands licensed to the operator that are specified in the rules for the category of application, and
- ◇ on phone, CW, and/or data modes.

Where do I find IOTA activity?

There are IOTAs on the air nearly every day

- ◇ Typically, 14.260 MHz is the 20 meter "crossroads" for island DXing
- ◇ The DXSummit.fi spotting page has an IOTA filter
- ◇ Join the Blog: IOTA-Chasers@groups.IO
- ◇ Bernie McClenny's (W3UR) Daily DX newsletter lists IOTA activity



Japanese Castles on the Air— JACOTA

Greg Cook— J03SLK (kgregc1@mac.com)

I had a great call with Icom's Ray Novak, N9JA. Somehow we started talking about our newsletter and Ray suggested that I contact Greg, J03SLK. Greg has a series of articles describing his activations of Japanese Castles. I read the first several and knew that these would be great for our newsletter. Greg was kind enough to allow me to reprint these.

Thanks to Ray for the connection and for Greg for his permission to reprint. You can slow watch the discussion about the Castles on the Air with Greg and the DX Mentor at (<https://youtu.be/HrhHDzzqCjM>)

I am back on the road again! I thought I might have to take a break in visiting castles for the JACOTA project, but my friend Steve in Okinawa visited one of his local castle ruins. Thanks Steve! So now, on to Sasayama Jo (castle).

Sasayama castle is located north of Kobe city, between Osaka Bay and the Sea of Japan, in Hyogo prefecture. To the north of Sasayama is Fukuchiyama city, with [Fukuchiyama castle](#) and further north, and a bit east, is Maizuru city, with [Tanabe castle](#).

Sasayama is a castle town with a history of more than 400 years. The town has been an essential point of transport from Kyoto going back to ancient times. A strong influence of Kyoto is reflected in its townscape and culture. The area is registered as one of the most important townscapes in Japan, and it is also certified as one of the 100 beautiful Japanese historical towns. You can walk throughout the town and visit shops, cafes, and preserved samurai homes, as well as the castle itself.

History of Sasayama castle

From the top of Mt. Takashiro to the Southeast of Sasayama Castle the Hatano ruled over the Tanba area from Yagami Castle. Yagami Castle fell to attacks by Akechi Mitsuhide in 1579. In 1608 Tokugawa Ieyasu's son Matsudaira Yasushige became lord of Yagami Castle. The following year, Ieyasu started the construction of Sasayama Castle while dismantling Yagami Castle as part of his plan to better control the western lords and fortify Osaka Castle. The castle was designed by Todo Takatora.

Tokugawa Ieyasu ordered construction to begin in 1608. Ikeda Terumasa was in charge of the construction, according to Tōdō's design, and the castle was completed in six months. About 20 Daimyo (regional lords) were recruited to "contribute" to the construction. The castle was so well designed that Tokugawa ordered the Tenshu (castle keep) to not be built, fearing that it might later be used as a base against him.

JACOTA (cont.)

Layout of Sasayama Castle

The Aoyama clan ruled Sasayama Castle for 123 years during the Edo period, beginning in 1748 and continuing until 1871. Except for the Oshoin Grand Hall, almost all of the buildings in the castle were destroyed after the Meiji Restoration. However, the hall was destroyed during a firebombing air raid in 1944. It was reconstructed in 2000.



The Ishigaki (stone walls) surrounded by the moat. The walls are very well maintained and are massive, giving very good protection from any attack.

 An advertisement for 'This Week in Amateur Radio'. The background is a world map with various call signs and numbers overlaid. The main text reads:

This Week in Amateur Radio
 North America's Premiere Amateur Radio News Magazine

 Below this, in a white box with a red border, is the text:

**Stay on Top of all that is Happening in Amateur Radio
 via a Podcast. A weekly Radio News Magazine**

JACOTA (cont.)



The front gate of the castle with the main hall in the background. The stone walkway is fairly steep, and a pad is placed over the rough gate stones, making it easier for wheelchairs to travel.



The main hall of the castle is now a very nice museum with lots of artifacts used in the castle.



Looking back through the gate from the main hall. The stone walkway curves to the right and then to the left, with stone walls that allowed defenders to fire down on any attackers, who had to maneuver through the curved walkway.

JACOTA (cont.)



The back of the main hall, with the Ni maru bailey where housing and storage structures used to stand.



The main hall from near the stairs to the Hon maru and shrine



The Ni maru bailey where there were originally units for storage, soldier's housing, and kitchen and eating facilities.

JACOTA (cont.)



Stone wall of the Hon maru bailey



Aoyama Jinja shrine, located on the Hon maru grounds, near the Tenshudai



Looking south from the Hon maru bailey, next to the Tenshudai. In this pic, the skies were clear and the weather was nice. Later it clouded up, as you can see in the picture below while I was operating.



See what Icom has to offer in the New Year



JACOTA (cont.)



Tenshudai (keep foundation) The foundation was made, but the Tenshu was never built, as mentioned above.

Operating place



Operating!



My operating area on the Tenshudai (keep foundation)
I carried my antenna system, photo gear,
and other needed accessories on my luggage/chair carrier

JACOTA (cont.)

The sky was cloudy when I took this pic, but later the clouds disappeared, the sun came, out and it was very warm.

This time I took the new Buddistick Pro™ tripod and Versahub™ base with me as it is very light and easy to carry. I wrote an article about the tripod in the June 2021 issue of FB News here. I assembled the shock-corded legs, attached them to the Versahub™ base. Next I added an 11 inch antenna arm, a regular VersaTee™ base, the black loading coil, and finally added the long extended whip element. I attached the clip onto the coil at the proper 40 meter position according to a chart I had, and connected the coax cable to the clip and to my antenna analyzer. I then attached the counterpoise wire to the VersaTee™ and stretched it out and wrapped it around one of the stone posts at the site. Using the analyzer I tuned the counterpoise wire for a nice 1.5 SWR across the 7.150 – 7.170 MHz portion of the band. I removed the analyzer and connected the coax to the IC-705, and using the built-in SWR meter, confirmed the SWR was flat after tuning with the AH-705.

The 40 meter band was full of signals from stations in many areas except...area 3. Stations in area 2, 4 and 6 were especially strong. I heard no stations from area 3, which is where I was located. I found a clear frequency around 7.163 and called CQ using SSB many times, but got no replies. I moved to frequencies where there were strong stations, most of them were just ragchewing. I waited for a chance to make a quick “Break” to see if my signal was strong enough to reach them.



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JACOTA (cont.)

Unfortunately when one station finished talking and released their mic PTT button, the next station would immediately push their mic PTT and say “Ryokai...” (understood) and begin talking. There was no chance to get my signal heard.


There was a nice station in area 2 that was just finishing his contact with a 4 area station, so I waited until they said their final words and gave the 2 area station a quick call. The 2 area station heard me, but didn’t get my callsign, so he said “QRZ...was someone calling me?” Again, unfortunately, another station that was stronger than me called the 2 station while I was also calling, and overpowered my signal, so the 2 area station replied to the other call.

I send a message to a friend of mine in Osaka and asked if he would be able to make contact with me, and sent him a clear frequency to listen on. When I received his reply, I called him several times, but he replied by message that he did not hear any signal. Sasayama is surrounded by mountains, even though in the distance, but my signal probably went right over the 3 area, which is why he could not hear me, and why I had not heard any 3 area stations all the time I was operating.

It was a bit of a frustrating morning, but I learned some valuable things... Be prepared to operate on other frequencies, probably higher like 20, or 15 meters. Also, I realized that because I am operating QRP (5 watts) I must relearn and become proficient at CW.... CW on low power is very effective. But all in all, it was still a fun day, and I enjoyed operating at Sasayama castle. I will visit there again and take my CW key with me the next time, after I am proficient at CW.



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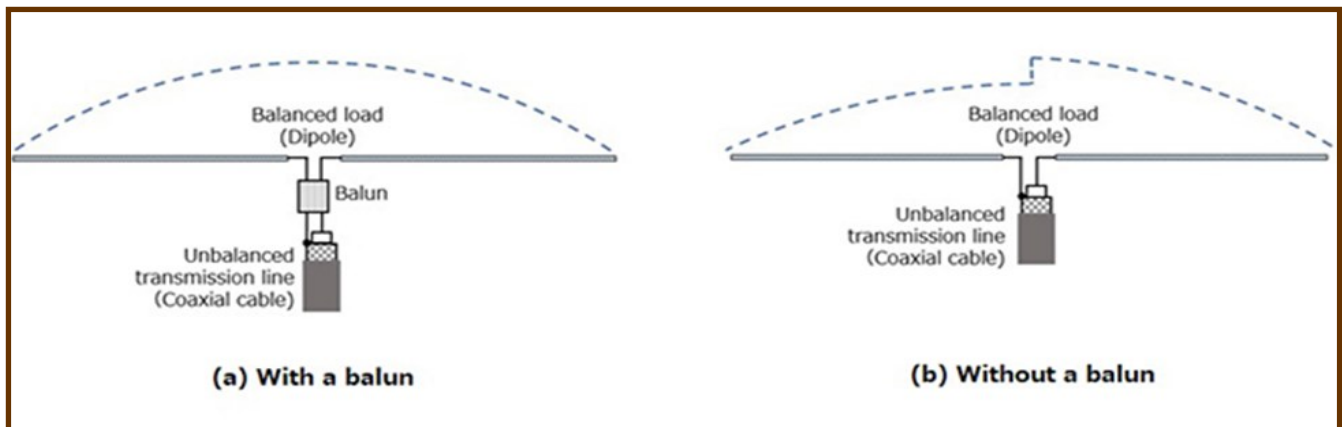
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Does a Wire Dipole Antenna NEED a Balun?

It is generally well known to insert a balun at the feed point between the coaxial cable and a wire dipole antenna. In the explanations and articles on baluns and theory of balanced/unbalanced, when an unbalanced coaxial cable is connected to a balanced antenna, the current distribution on the left and right antenna element becomes uneven, as shown in Figure 1(b).

It is said that the balance of radiated power will be lost. It is also explained that the figure-8 H-plane radiation pattern of the dipole is distorted due to it, and more radio waves are radiated from the coaxial cable. This seems to cause TVI and BCI, which is a matter of concern to amateur radio operators. Let us examine the explanation with and without a balun through a simple experiment.



1. A wire dipole antenna as I remember

The line that sends RF power from the antenna connector of a radio through the coaxial cable is an unbalanced circuit, and a dipole antenna with $1/4 \lambda$ elements stretched to the left and right is a balanced circuit.

Baluns are devices that convert between unbalanced circuits and balanced circuits. Balun is spelled “Balun” in English. It is a word synthesized from parts of the phrase balanced-to-unbalanced.

The balun’s theory may have existed for a long time, but when Dr. FB started amateur radio, the antenna to be built was as shown in Figure 2, and I thought it was a dipole antenna. I did not know the existence of a balun at that time. I enjoyed communicating using this dipole antenna, but I found out that TVI happened in a neighborhood house. At that time, the TVI was greatly eliminated by connecting to the antenna through a balun.

Dipole and a Balun (cont.)



Figure 2. Dipole antenna without a balun

2. Variety of balun

Figure 4 shows various baluns that I collected for this article. For reference, a balun (b) is made by Bencher, which is famous for the Bencher CW paddle. I thought the Bencher was the maker of CW paddles, but I knew for the first time that Bencher was also making baluns. You can get a lot



Figure 3. Dipole antenna using a balun



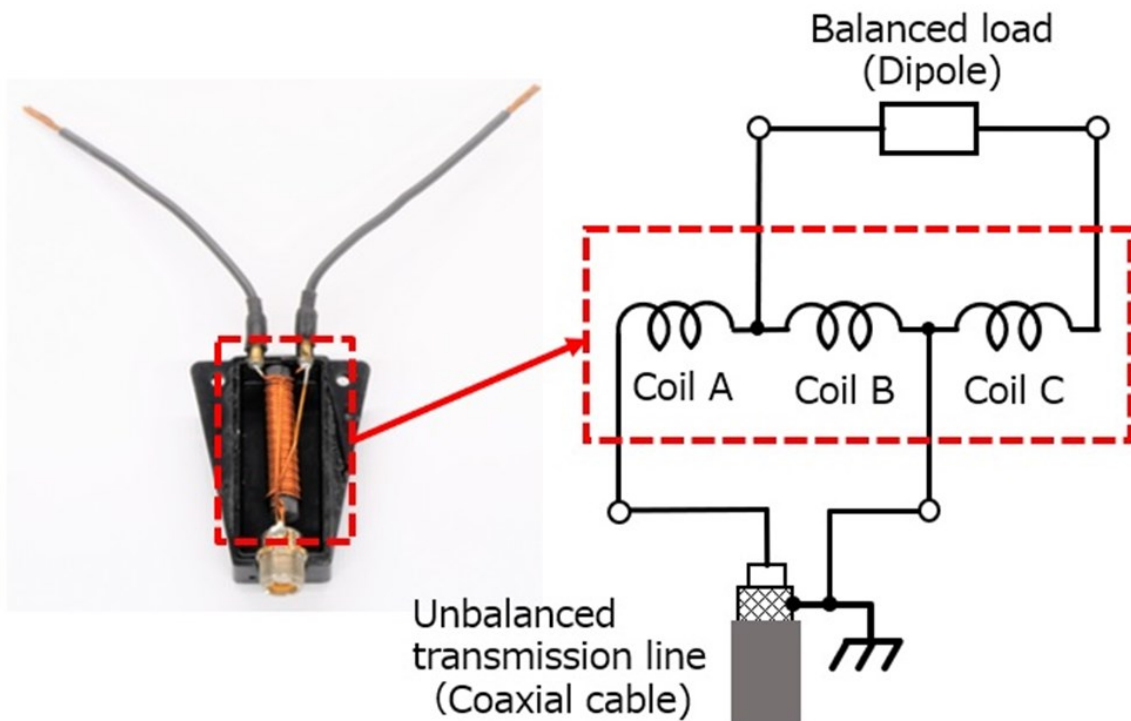
Figure 4. Various baluns

of information by searching for “Balun” online. From that information, the inside circuit structure of the balun can be roughly known.

Dipole and a Balun (cont.)

3. Construction of the balun

Of the baluns shown in Figure 4, I disassembled the balun (a) and examined the insides. Three coils with the same number of turns are tightly wound on the same ferrite bar (core). The circuit is shown in Figure 5. The RF power generated by the radio is supplied to balun coils A and B through the coaxial cable. RF power is also induced in coil C by the electromagnetic induction action, so the RF power induced in coils B and C is supplied to the antenna. In other words, you can see that the power generated by the radio is directly supplied to the dipole antenna through the balun.



4. Consideration of a wire dipole without a balun

A balanced line is a signal transmission line consisting of two conductors of the same type, the same impedances along their lengths and thickness, and the same impedances to other circuits. In a coaxial cable, the core wire (center conductor) is protected from external noise by the surrounding braid (shield wire). The braided wire is different from the core wire, so the amount of noise is obviously worse than on the core wire, and the physical shape is also different from the core wire. The characteristics of the two wires that transmit power, the coaxial cable, are not the same. That is, the coaxial cable that we usually use, is an unbalanced line.

Dipole and a Balun (cont.)

In the dipole with a balun shown in Figure 1(a), from the coaxial cable to the balun, the RF power is supplied by the core wire and the braided wire, but after passing through the balun, it becomes symmetrical as shown in Figure 5. RF power is output from both ends of coil B and coil C, and the power is radiated through the elements of the dipole.

5. Preparations of experiment

I made two types of dipole antennas, with and without a balun this time, and the RF current flowing through the elements of the dipole was measured with a RF ammeter to create a current distribution diagram. For the transmitted RF signals, the output of an antenna analyzer with very low power was used. The experiment was conducted in the 28 MHz band.

The element length of the dipole antenna is $1/4 \lambda$ on one side and $1/4 \lambda$ on the other side, and the total of the left and right element lengths is $1/2 \lambda$. Let us calculate the element length. Here, $v=3 \times 10^8$ (m) as the velocity of wave and f =operating frequency (MHz), but for ease of calculation, $\lambda=300/28.5$. The wavelength is 10.5 (m) as shown below.

$$\lambda (m) = \frac{v}{f} = \frac{300}{28.5} = 10.5$$

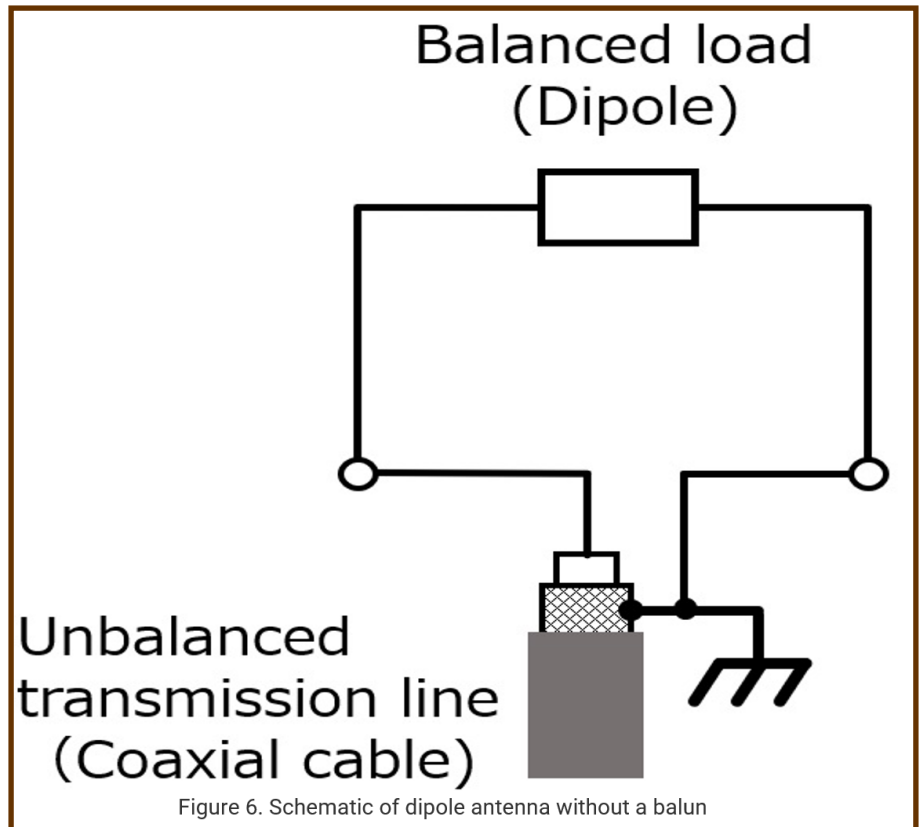
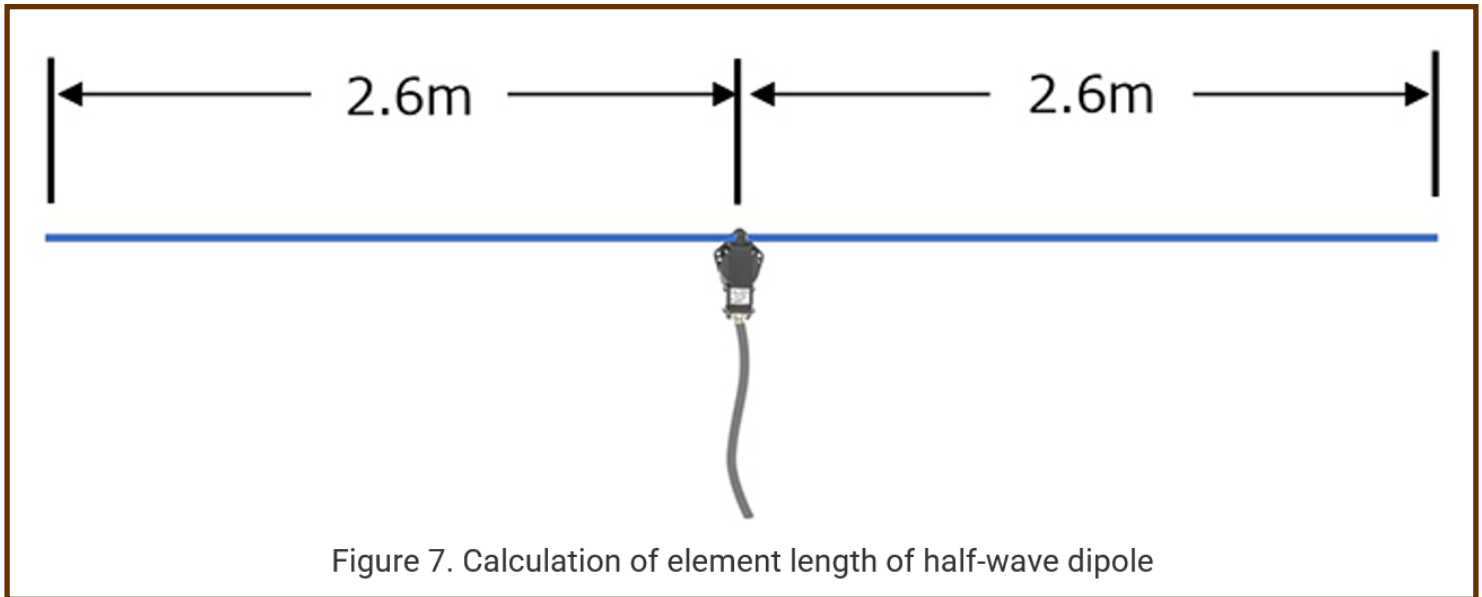


Figure 6. Schematic of dipole antenna without a balun

Dipole and a Balun (cont.)



6. The result of the experiment

An RF ammeter was used to measure the magnitude of the current flowing through each element (1) when the balun was used in the dipole antenna, and (2) when the balun was not used. The RF ammeter for measuring is shown in Figure 8. With this measuring instrument, the magnitude of the RF current flowing through the element is converted into a voltage, and the value is displayed on the voltmeter of the digital multimeter. Please understand that the measured value represents the relative value of the RF current flowing through the element, and is not an accurate absolute value.

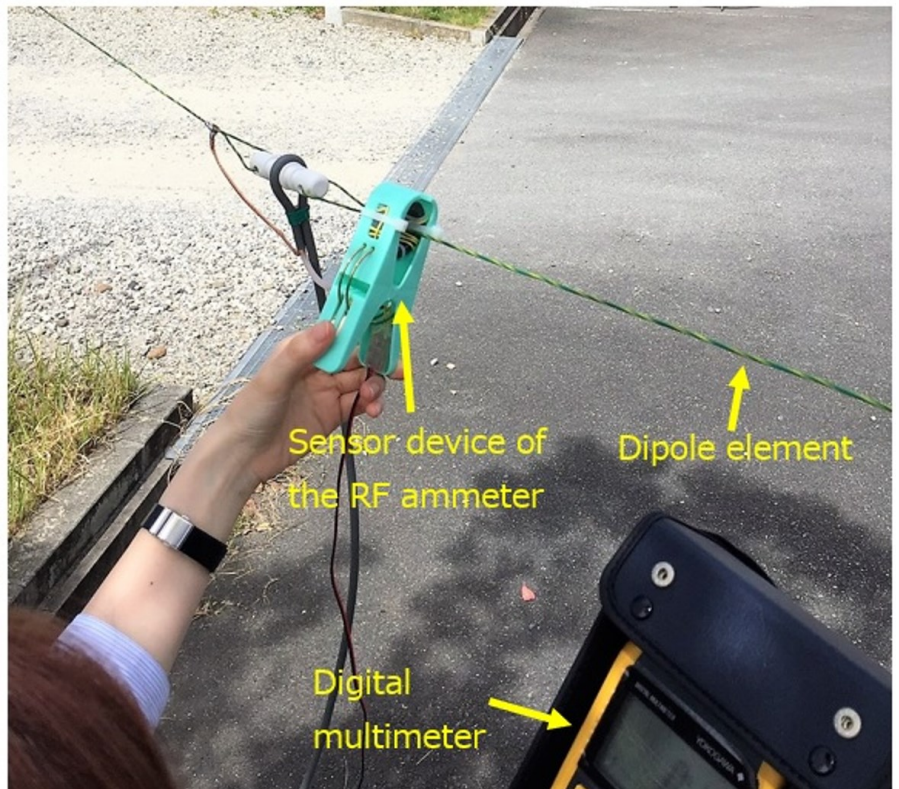
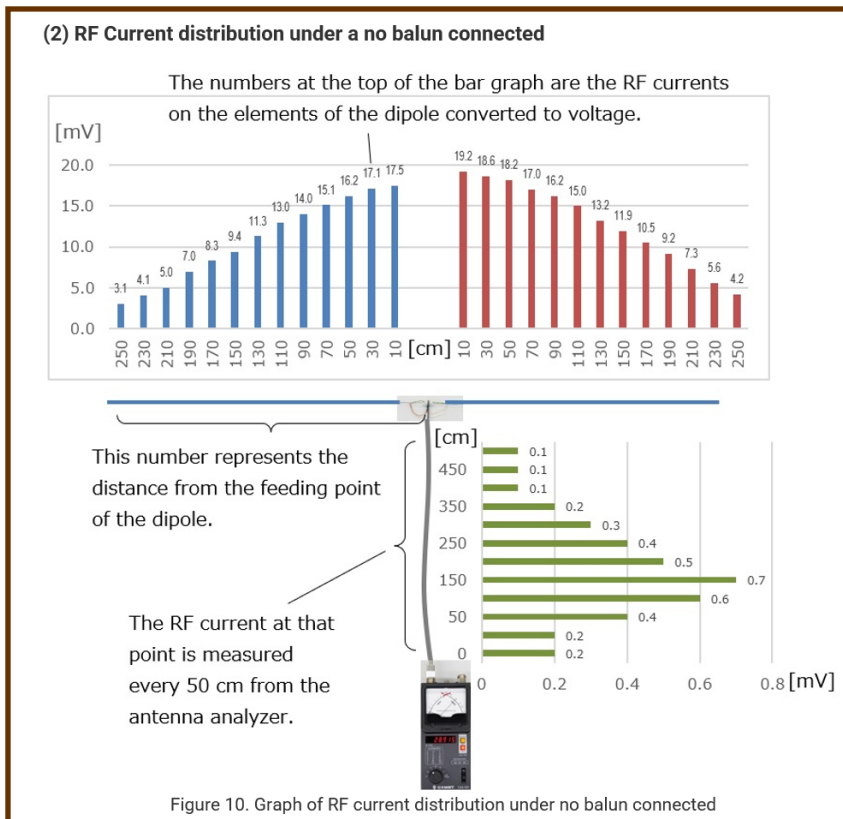
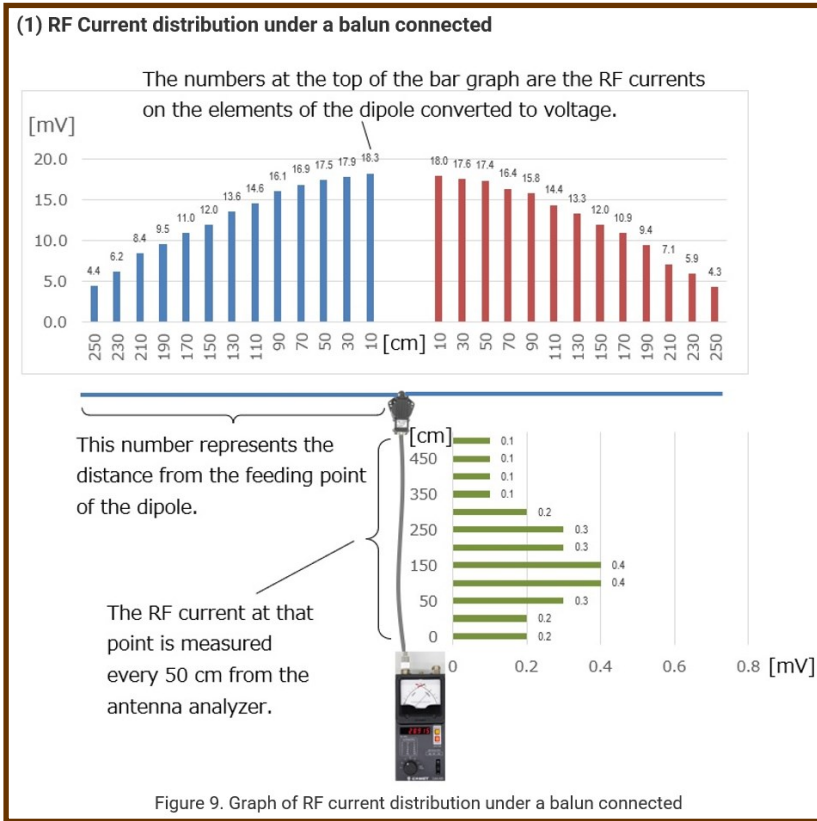


Figure 8. A scene of the RF current is being measured

Dipole and a Balun (cont.)

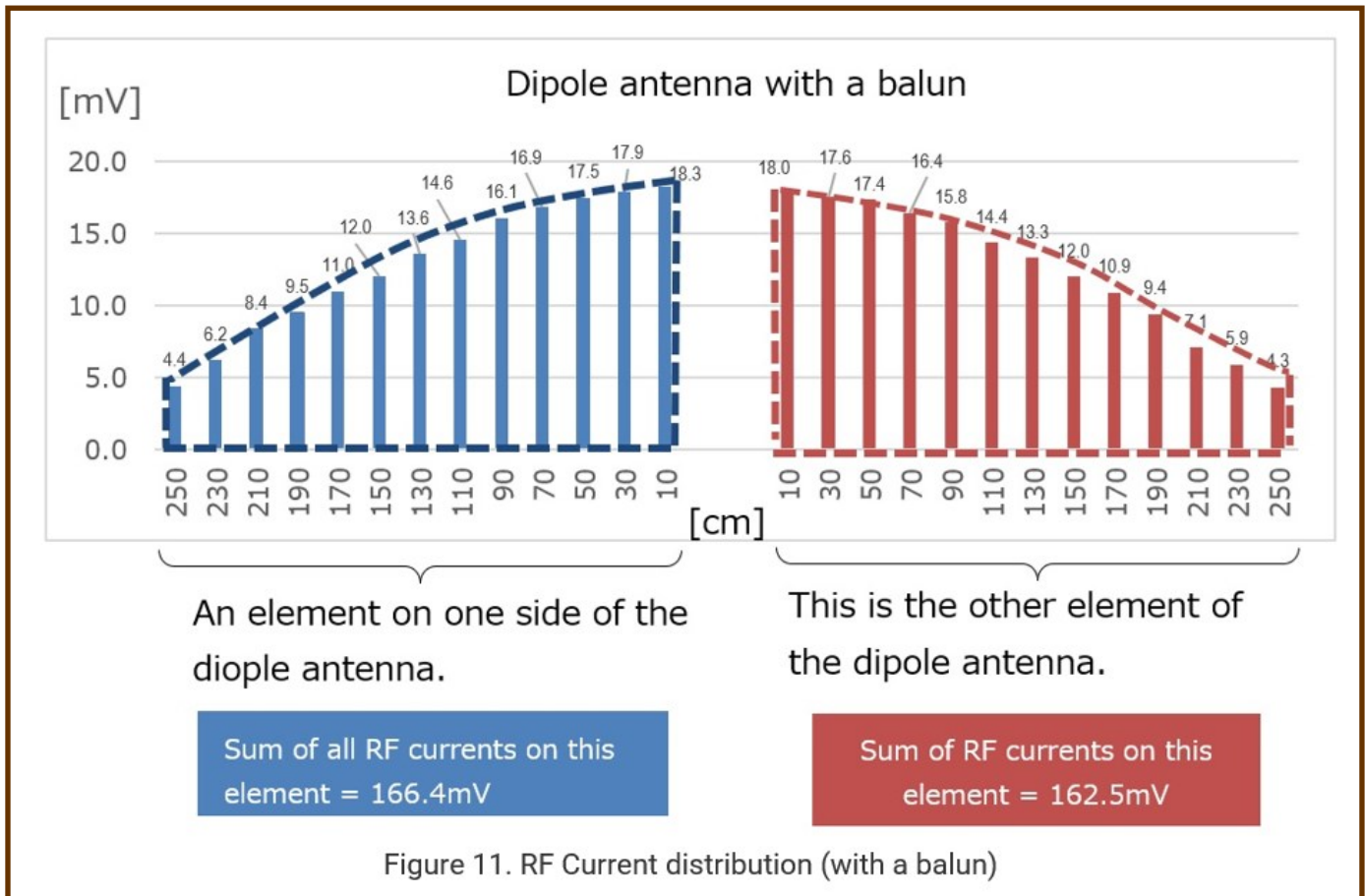


Dipole and a Balun (cont.)

7. Consideration of the RF current on antenna element

(1) Consideration of current level flowing in each element of dipole antenna with a balun

Figure 11 is an excerpt from Figure 9. A bar graph shows the magnitude of RF current flowing through the dipole element. The vertical axis shows the measured current level with a voltmeter. As you can see from the figure, the areas enclosed by the dotted lines on the left and right are almost the same. A sum of the measured current levels at each point is 166.4 mV for blue and 162.5 mV for red respectively, and you can see that the numbers are almost equal.



Dipole and a Balun (cont.)

8. Considerations of the RF current on the coaxial cable

Figure 13 shows the current level flowing in the coaxial cable. It is an excerpt from Figures 9 and 10. If you look at the two graphs, you can see that there is a clear difference. The level of the graph on the left with the balun connected is smaller than that on the right. In other words, when the coaxial cable and the elements are directly connected, RF current seems to flow in the coaxial cable. Originally, the coaxial cable serves as a transmission path for radio waves, but as you can see from the results of this experiment, the RF frequencies are also radiated from the coaxial cable.

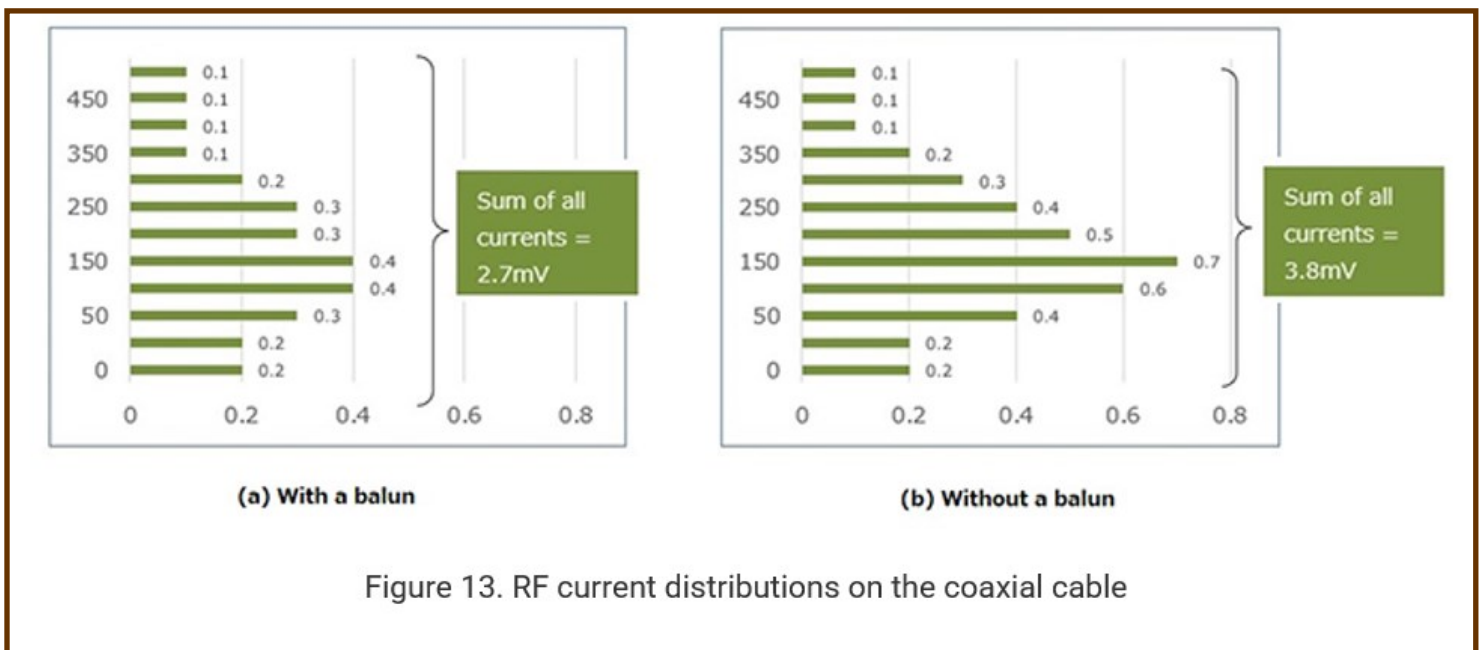


Figure 13. RF current distributions on the coaxial cable

9. Summary

I found that there is a difference in the RF energy radiated from the left and right elements of the dipole antenna without a balun. Speculation in various books is that this difference is the cause of the disturbance of the directional radiated pattern.

Radiation of RF energy from the coaxial cable was confirmed both when a balun was used and when it was not used. However, the graph in Figure 13 shows that when a balun is not used, about 1.4 times more energy is radiated than when a balun was used.

Originally, the RF energy that should be radiated from the antenna but it is also radiated from the coaxial cable, which could have caused TVI or BCI. My experience is proof of this phenomenon. When I inserted the balun that I got from an OM, the TVI of the neighborhood was suppressed.

Dipole and a Balun (cont.)

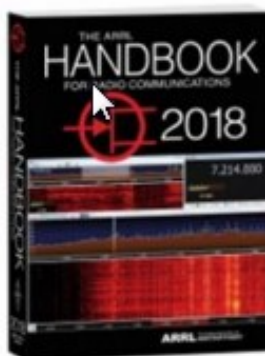
Summary (cont.)

Finally, the electric field strength at the point away from the antenna was measured. Due to the installation of the antenna used in the experiment and the environment at the measurement point, the electric field strength of the measurement was erratic and unstable, and the experiments did not proceed as they did in VHF or UHF. As a result, I could not get the data, and I do not know which antenna with a balun or without a balun would be better.

ARRL OH Section Updates

From our ARRL Section Manager,
Tom Sly, WB8LCD

Hey Gang, Do you get updates from your ARRL Ohio Section Manager via email? If not, go to: <http://arrl-ohio.org/handbook.html> and get registered.



What's the catch? I want to get everyone checking in to the Ohio Section website as often as possible, and in order to register each month, you have to visit the website often! There's nothing else to it. I pay all expenses, and from time to time, I Give Away more than just a Handbook. And, you'll never know just what months will be those special times that I will have more than just a Handbook to Give Away!!

Did you see the ad from ARRL recently? Well, they liked my idea so much that they've copied it. Yup, they were giving away a Handbook too!

Many of you ask me just how do I know when the drawing is on? Well, that's easy all you need to do is check in on the Ohio Section Website on a regular basis and watch for the big RED Arrow that will appear on the left side of the page. This is the sign that the drawing is on and you need to get registered. So, keep a sharp eye out on the website and check in often! <http://arrl-ohio.org>

So You Want to Go on a DXPedition?

By Paul Ewing-N6PSE

Paul Ewing-N6PSE is a frequent contributor to the NCDXF newsletter. He has been on many DXPeditions both as a member and as the leader. The latest DXPedition was the H40WA Temotu DXPedition earlier this year.

Thanks to the NCDXF for allowing me to reprint this.

I am often asked: What's it take to get invited to join a DXPedition? Or I am told "please keep me in mind for future trips".

Participating in DXPeditions is one of the most enjoyable and interesting things I have ever done. The places that you see and the people that you meet are truly fascinating. You may discover as I have, that our world is truly different than our mass media and biased news reporting would have you believe.

Prior to my first DXPedition to IRAQ, I always wondered why it was always the same guys on each team that activated these strange and interesting places. Soon, I learned that each team often builds a core part of the team. These team members are often retired or semi-retired and are able to travel with little notice. They also bring other skills to the team such as solid and reliable work ethic, a "can do" attitude, they are likely to be very strong operators and able to operate for long periods of time often under harsh conditions. They are often willing to operate in any mode, any time.

They bring a sense of excitement and adventure that adds to the excitement and passion of the team. Some guys are just hard workers. They know what needs to be done and they just get it done. These guys are the back bone of the team and their skills and knowledge are invaluable.

It is my opinion that each team should have some new talent or new people to introduce to DXPeditioning. DXPeditioning should not be an elitist function and the hobby benefits from finding and developing new players who can later go on and do more activations and eventually form and lead their own teams. This kind of activity can propel DXPeditioning activity for decades to come.



So You Want to Go on a DXPedtion? (cont.)

When I am approached by a new comer who wants to join a DXPedtion, I gauge their interest and ability to fit in with a team. I find that sometimes future DXPeditioners have a unrealistic expectation of what a DXPedtion is like. Those that expect comfort and convenience will bring unrealistic expectations to the table. Cost is a consideration for all of us. Today's DXPeditioner can expect to spend \$250-\$500 a day or more plus their cost to get to and from the DXPedtion meeting point.

When building the DXPedtion team, the leaders want to build a team that will be engaged and effective. They will tend to go to their core people first as these people are known for their skills and qualities. The leader knows that he must seek and maintain balance in the skills sets available.

I believe that multi-national teams are the most effective teams at meeting the huge global demand for contacts. For that reason, I prefer to build and assemble a team of US, EU, JA and South American members whenever possible.

I try to tap into the team members feeling of personal obligation to ensure that his own continent is well covered with contacts made. Never do you want to leave a continent feeling that they did not get access to the DXPedtion team.

Strong operating skills are very important to the DXPedtion team. An operator should be strong at CW and/or SSB. Willingness and ability to do multiple modes is a plus. RTTY should not be an afterthought and operators that bring skills such as rapid rate and expertise with multiple decoders are desirable.

Some operators bring extra skills to the team, such as the ability to effectively troubleshoot PC & network issues. Expertise in logging programs such as N1MM, Wintest and Writelog are quite desirable. Skills in gathering log data and performing satellite uploads are very beneficial.

We are often impressed by those that have the right attitude and the aptitude to succeed. Skills can be developed, honed and improved but they must be coupled with the right attitude along with the aptitude to succeed.

So You Want to Go on a DXPedtion? (cont.)

There have been countless times when I have been asked “Please keep me in mind for a future trip”. Quite often when I contact those people, I find that they are dreamers and not really engaged in becoming a DXPeditioner. They are not prepared to take the time away from their work and family or prepared for the cost of the DXPedition. The men that say “yes” time and time again are able to live the dream and enjoy the fun.

So when you look at the various DXPedition websites and see the makeup of the team, know that could be you going on the adventure, but only after you have aligned your expectations with those of the team and you have made your skills and abilities attractive to the team leader as he builds and assembles his team.

The future of DXPeditioning needs new blood. If you wish to join the ranks of DXPeditioners start getting ready now so that you are prepared to say yes when that call comes.



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SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA)

Club Fact Sheet

Who We Are: *SWODXA* is comprised of active DX'ers and contesters with a deep passion for all aspects of Amateur Radio. We welcome everyone who is interested in joining our club to please contact us. *SWODXA* members are active in all facets of DX and Contesting. We also travel to, and fund various DXpeditions all over the world. *SWODXA* sponsors the annual DX Dinner held on the Friday evening of Hamvention weekend in Dayton, Ohio. In addition, *SWODXA* members moderate the Hamvention DX Forum and host the *W8DXCC DX Convention*. *SWODXA* is proud sponsor of the prestigious *DXpedition of the Year Award*.

DX Donation Policy: The policy supports major DXpeditions that meet our requirements for financial sponsorship. Details are available on the website at: <https://www.swodxa.org/dxgrant-application/> and elsewhere in this newsletter

Club History: The Southwest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA) is one of the country's premier amateur radio clubs. Though loosely formed in mid-1977, the club had its first formal organizational meeting in August of 1981 where Frank Schwob, W8OK (sk), was elected our first President. While organized primarily as a DX club, SWODXA members are active in all aspects of our hobby.

Requirements for Membership: We welcome all hams who have an interest in DXing. It doesn't matter whether you're a newcomer, or an old-timer to DXing; everyone is welcome! Visit <http://swodxa.org/member.htm>

Meetings: The club meets on the second Thursday of each month at Hunter Pizzeria in Franklin, OH, and virtually via ZOOM. Members gather early in the private room for dinner and then a short business agenda at 6:30 PM, followed by a program. If you enjoy a night out on the town with friends, you'll enjoy this get together. Meeting attendance is NOT a requirement for membership.

Club Officers: Four presiding officers and the past president (or past VP) make up the Board of Directors. The current roster of officers are: Past President Tom Inglin, NR8Z, President Bill Salyers, AJ8B; Vice President Brian Bathe, AD8FD; Secretary Ken Allen, KB8KE, and Treasurer Mike Suhar, W8RKO.

Website: We maintain websites at www.swodxa.org and www.swodxaevents.org managed by Bill, AJ8B. These sites provide information about a variety of subjects related to the club and DXing.

SouthWest Ohio DX Association (SWODXA)

DX Donation Policy

The mission of SWODXA is to support DXing and major DXpeditions by providing funding. A funding request from the organizers of a planned DXpedition should be directed to the DX committee by filling out an online funding request.

(<https://www.swodxa.org/dx-grant-application/>)

The DX Grant committee will determine how well the DXpedition plans meet key considerations (see below). If the DX Grant committee recommends supporting the DXpedition in question, a recommended funding amount is determined based on the criteria below. The chairman of the committee will make a recommendation at the general meeting on the donation.

Factors Affecting a DXpedition Funding Request Approval

DXpedition destination	Website with logos of club sponsors
Ranking on the Clublog Most Wanted Survey	QSLs with logos of club sponsors
Online logs and pilot stations	Logistics and transportation costs
Number of operators and their credentials	Number of stations on the air
LoTW log submissions	Bands, modes and duration of operation

H40GC	H44GC	ZL9HR	XX9D	HK0NA	FT4TA
KH1/KH7Z	EP2A	FT5ZM	C21GC	VK9WA	NH8S
K4M	CY9C	VK9MA	PT0S	FT4JA	YJ0X
6O6O	VP6D	TO4E	XR0ZR	VP8STI	VP8SGI
W1AW/KH8	K1N	3D2C	VK0EK	S21ZBB	E30FB
ST0RY	TI9/3Z9DX	VK9MT	K5P	9U4M	TX3X
VU7AB	3Y0Z	3C0L	TX7EU	CE0Z	3C1L
TI9A	3D2CR	3B7A	K9W	VU7RI	6O7O
C21WW	CE0Z	T30GC	T30L	D68CCC	W8KKF/WP5
K5D	3Y0J	T33A	3Y0J	CY9C	