



**Publication of the  
Northern California  
Contest Club**



Issue 492

May 2013

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Guests are always welcome at the NCCC!  
Please join us.

**Monday, May 13, 2013**

**Time:**

6:00pm schmooz, 6:30pm dinner, 7:00pm program

**Location:**

Cattlemens,  
2882 Kitty Hawk Rd, Livermore, CA 94550,  
[925-447-1224](tel:925-447-1224)

**Program:**

1. NCCC President's goals for 2013-2014
2. Plans for upcoming WPX CW Contest
3. Video from the 3D2C DXpedition
4. TF4X DXpedition presentation

**To register:**

Please email your callsign, number attending and entree choices to Tom NS6T here:  
[nccc.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:nccc.treasurer@gmail.com)

**From the President...**

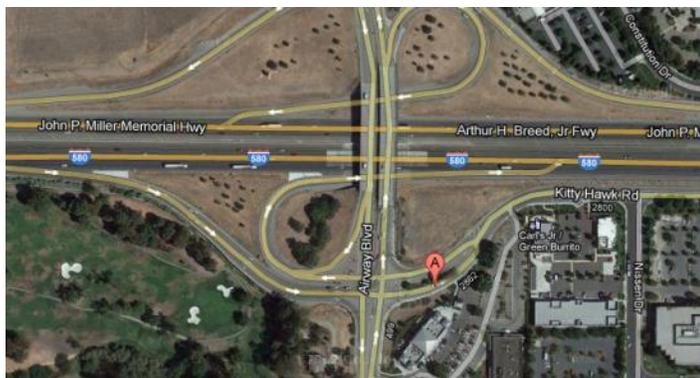


Now begins my term as President of the NCCC. I must say that I did not seek the office, but, after a few sessions of flattery and arm twisting, I agreed. A big factor in making my decision was the use of WebX to broadcast our meetings. This is especially important to this NCCC officer who doesn't reside on the Peninsula and who faces a three to four hour round trip to attend Monday night meetings. I'll be present in the flesh for the May meeting, but plan to be present from my home "studio" via desktop computer for many other meetings during the year.

For those of you who don't know me, here are a few salient facts: I'm a 69 year-old retired physician first licensed in 1956 (7<sup>th</sup> grade). I was off the air from 1962 until 1996, but am now a fairly active DXer (DXCC = 346) and contester. I was recruited to the NCCC while attending meeting of the NCDXC. My local club is the Redwood Empire DX Association, which is one of the vanishing few local clubs with an emphasis on HF operations.

My ham radio career began, strangely, with a boost from the late Senator Joseph McCarthy and his ilk. Let me explain.

In 1956 I accidentally discovered the world of shortwave while fiddling with the controls of my grandfather's big console radio with its glowing green tuning eye.



**Continued on page 3**



# Northern California Contest Club

Excellence In Amateur Radio Contesting

## Officers:

President	Alan Eshleman	K6SRZ	doctore@well.com	Penngrove CA
Vice President /Contest Chair	Alan Maenchen	AD6E	ad6e@arrl.net	San Jose, CA
Secretary/Treasurer	Tom Epperly	NS6T	tepperly@gmail.com	Livermore CA
Past President	Dean Wood	N6DE	cqden6de@gmail.com	Sunnyvale CA
Director	Fred Jensen	K6DGW	k6dgw@foothill.net	Auburn CA
Director	Steve Dyer	W1SRD	w1srd@arrl.net	Redwood City CA
Director	Jim Brown	K9YC	k9yc@arrl.net	Santa Cruz CA

## Volunteers:

New Member Mentor	Al Rendon	WT6K	wt6k@arrl.net
Charter Member	Rusty Epps	W6OAT	w6oat@sbcglobal.net
Awards Chairs	Joanna Dilley	K6YL	joanna.k6yl@gmail.com
	Rebar Rebarchik	N6DB	rebar@hamilton.com
CQP Chair	Alan Eshleman	K6SRZ	doctore@well.com
CQP Certificates	Andy Faber	AE6Y	ae6y@arrl.net
K6ZM QSL Manager	George Daughters	K6GT	k6gt@arrl.net
K6CQP,N6CQP,W6CQP QSL Mgr	Ed Muns	W0YK	w0yk@arrl.net
NCCC Email reflector Admin	Phil Verinsky	W6PK	kb-w6tqg@verinsky.com
Webmaster	John Miller	K6MM	k6mm@arrl.net
JUG Editor	Ian Parker	W6TCP	w6tcpian@gmail.com

## Thursday Night Contesting:

NCCC—Sprint	Ken Keeler	N6RO	kenkeeler@jazznut.com
NS Ladder	Bill Haddon	N6ZFO	haddon.bill@gmail.com
Slow NS (SNS)	Chris Tate	N6WM	ctate@ewnetinc.com

### NCCC Net

Thursday 8 PM  
 Freq: 3.610 +/-

### NCCC

Monthly meetings  
 take place on the  
 second Monday of  
 each month !

Details in May JUG

## NCCC Membership Information

If you wish to join NCCC, you must fill out an [application for membership](#), which will be read and voted upon at the next monthly meeting. ([PDF application form](#))

To join, you must reside within [club territory](#) which is defined as the maximum of:

- Northern California, anything north of the Tehachapi's up to the Oregon border, and
- A part of north-western Nevada (anything within our ARRL 175-mile radius circle centered at 10 miles North of Auburn on Highway 49).





K6SRZ and family in Honolulu 1972  
--the year my license expired

In 1972 I was doing graduate work in Hawaii and starting a family when my license expired.

Again, flash forward 34 years. I found myself at a dinner party with a friend who was a hang-glider enthusiast. During the course of our conversation, he brought out a tiny 2-meter HT. "We use these to communicate with the ground crew," he said. I was amazed: the last 2-meter transceiver I'd seen was a suitcase-sized, bright yellow Gonset Communicator with a Civil Defense logo on its side.

And that rekindled my interest in ham radio. In a short time I got licensed again, regained "K6SRZ" through vanity, discovered HRO (the store—not the radio) and got back on the air with a TS 850 and attic dipole. My first QSO was with a V7.

And the rest, as they say, is history. Perhaps when I'm feeling nostalgic I'll share some more of that history, but now it's time to turn my attention to the NCCC.

My goals for my term are modest :

- First, to do what's needed to ensure that NCCC remains one the nation's premier radiosport clubs.
- To continue the emphasis on focus contests—contests in which we've excelled and which, for the most part, minimize the East Coast bias. For 2013, the ARRL Sweepstakes is back on the focus list. It is not too soon to reserve those dates on your calendar
- To revisit the awards we give and perhaps make some changes in what we honor (and how much we spend). I think our first priority in the awards department should be deciding on an appropriate award or gift to acknowledge the contributions of our late brother Robert "Smitty" Smithwick, W6CS. As a physician, I'm inclined to think of something that recognizes his contributions to Medishare (<http://www.medishare.org/>) but I definitely want member input.
- To continue perfecting the WebX format to encourage wider member participation in the operation and management of NCCC.

More to follow. I welcome all the help I can get.

73 & KB,

Alan/K6SRZ

## From the Vice President/Contest Chair...



### WPX Going Strong!

We're in 1<sup>st</sup> place North America and 2<sup>nd</sup> place World as of this writing, based on claimed scores. That's a BIG advantage going into the CW weekend May 25. Are you ready?

From last year's WPX club results:

BCC	184 logs	441 million points
Rhein Ruhr	136	319
PVRC	120	250
Araucaria	65	227
NCCC	97	217
LU Contest	58	204
Croatia CC	64	193
YCCC	94	169
Ural CC	33	146
FRC	55	139
Russian CC	63	127

Notice that I've mixed "DX" clubs with "USA" clubs. Our goal is to win the USA which means beating out PVRC and staying ahead of YCCC. This seems achievable. What I find amazing is that right now after the SSB weekend, we're also well ahead of BCC and all the DX clubs except Rhein Ruhr. If it wasn't for one score (D4C), we would be neck-and-neck with them.

From 3830:

Rhein Ruhr	196 million
NCCC	104
Araucaria	75
BCC	70
PVRC	65
YCCC	47
SMC	27

Of course, 3830 does not show ALL scores, and even those scores are before log checking. Where do we go from here? How do we clinch this one?

WPX club score is simply the sum of SSB and CW weekends. CW is in 3 weeks .. May 25 and 26.

- Get on the air!
- Operate from DX (requires a bit of advance planning – I'll be at KH6LC)
- Maximize your score by joining with your neighbor and do a Multi-op .. unless you're one of those mutants that can stay in the chair for 36 hours. Even then a Multi can stay on the air for the full 48 hours.
- Use packet and/or the reverse beacon network to find new mults.
- Spend as much time as you can on the low bands for twice the points.
- Have fun! WPX is a great contest because your score grows geometrically with time.

# My Townhome Shack - Byron N6NUL

## Load the Bannister

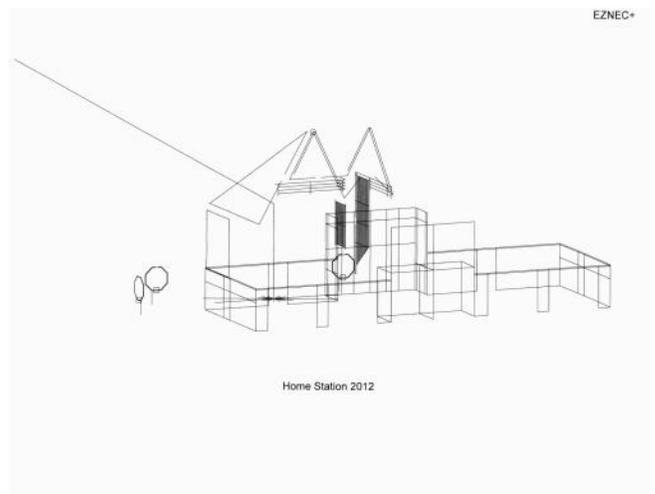


There have been a number of excellent NCCC presentations on antennas for small stations recently, and I have been enjoying not only the ingenuity of the solutions, but also the different notions of what constitutes “small”. My meaning of small is shown in image 1, a picture of my [townhome](#) (the left half of the building). This month, I want to describe the antennas I packed into that space in 2012, and the modeling I attempted.

From roughly the same angle as image 1, figure 1 shows the current EZNEC model for my station (the files are [available here](#)). This figure has all of the wire files added in, because it looks impressive, but the antennas are a lot easier to visualize if you download the [base model](#); the [description file](#) has wire numbers for source locations.

My goals were to have fun, think big, and have individual antennas resonant in the contest bands, with some gain on 15 and 20 meters if possible. From left to right in figure 1 they are: 3 octagonal RX loops (see Jug #486), a 10m vertical loop, a 40m dipole folded to a delta shape, 80m vertical and ground radials, and a pair of coupled 15/20 dipoles, intended to be a reversible beam.

I wanted to model the antennas because since they are so close together, they behave more like 1 antenna with resonant feed points than individual antennas. Also, my home has a lot of extra metal in it, and I wanted to see how it affected their patterns. The first thing I added to my model is my home’s 3 story iron bannister (the dense set of vertical lines in the middle of figure 1).

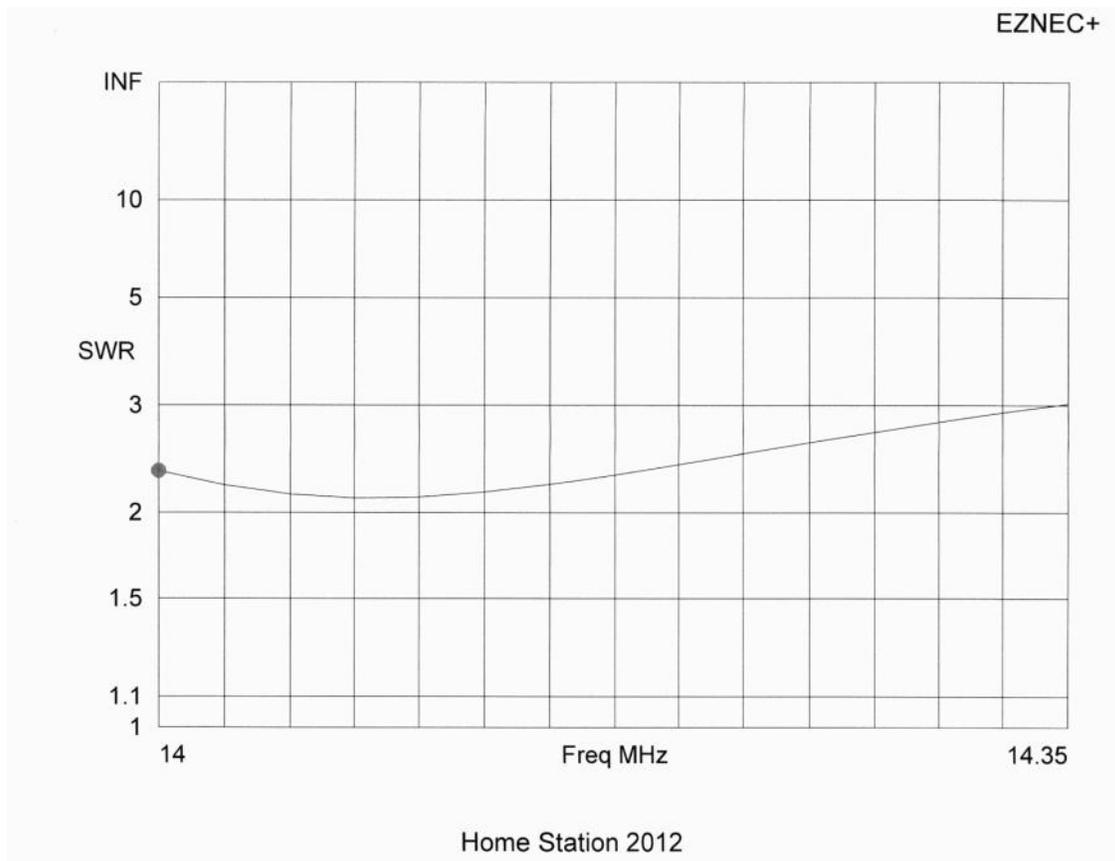
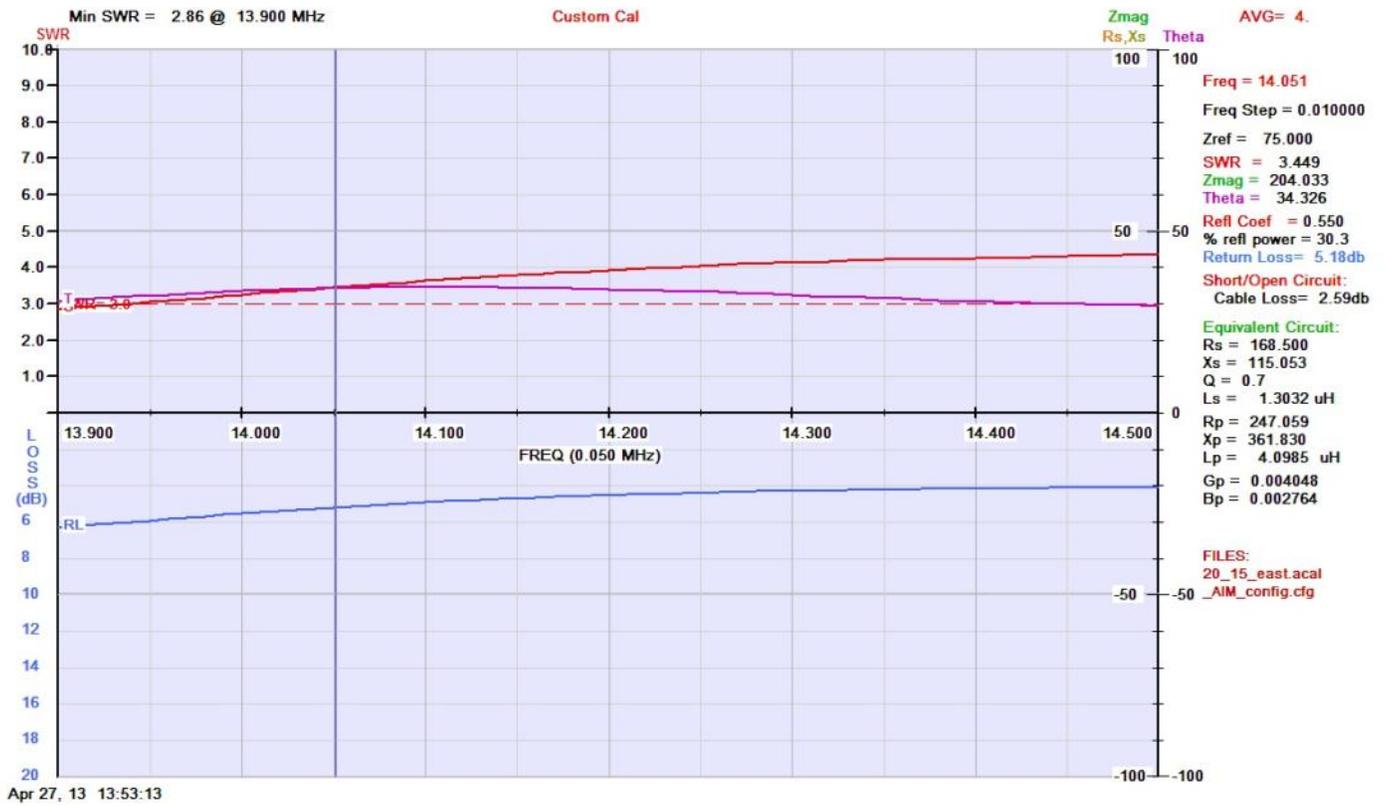


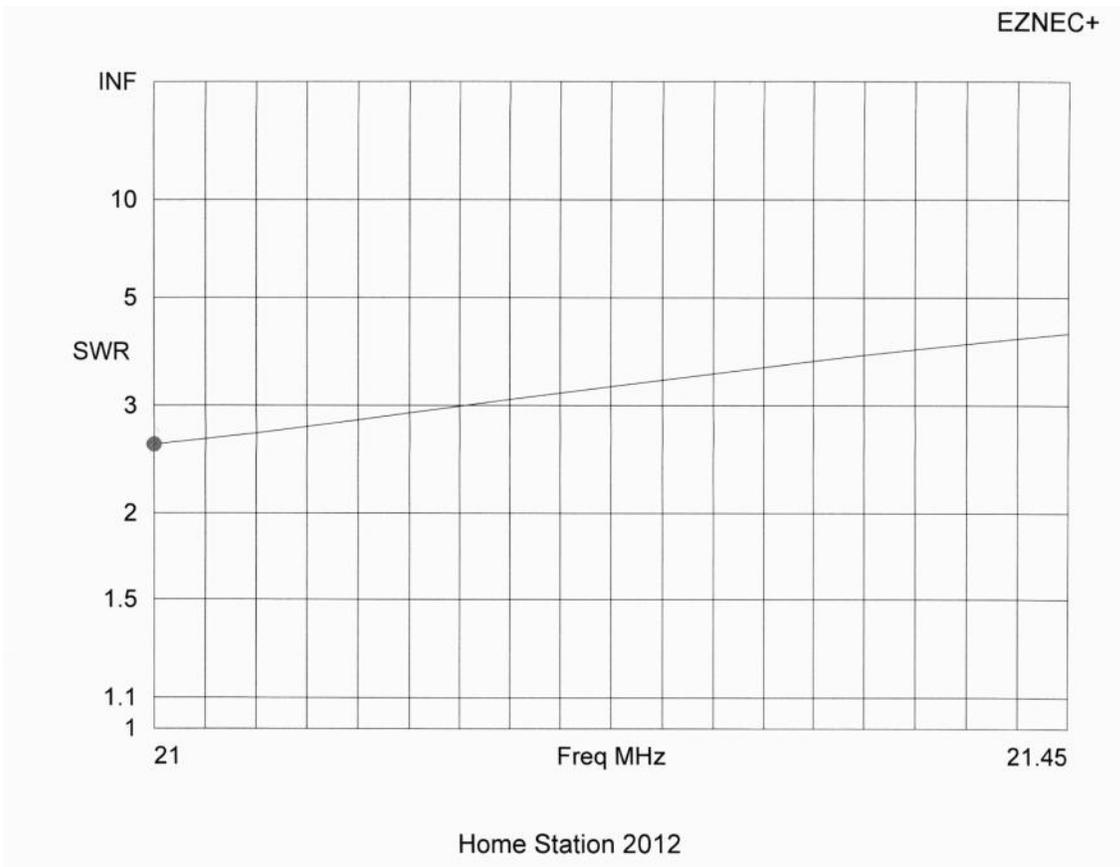
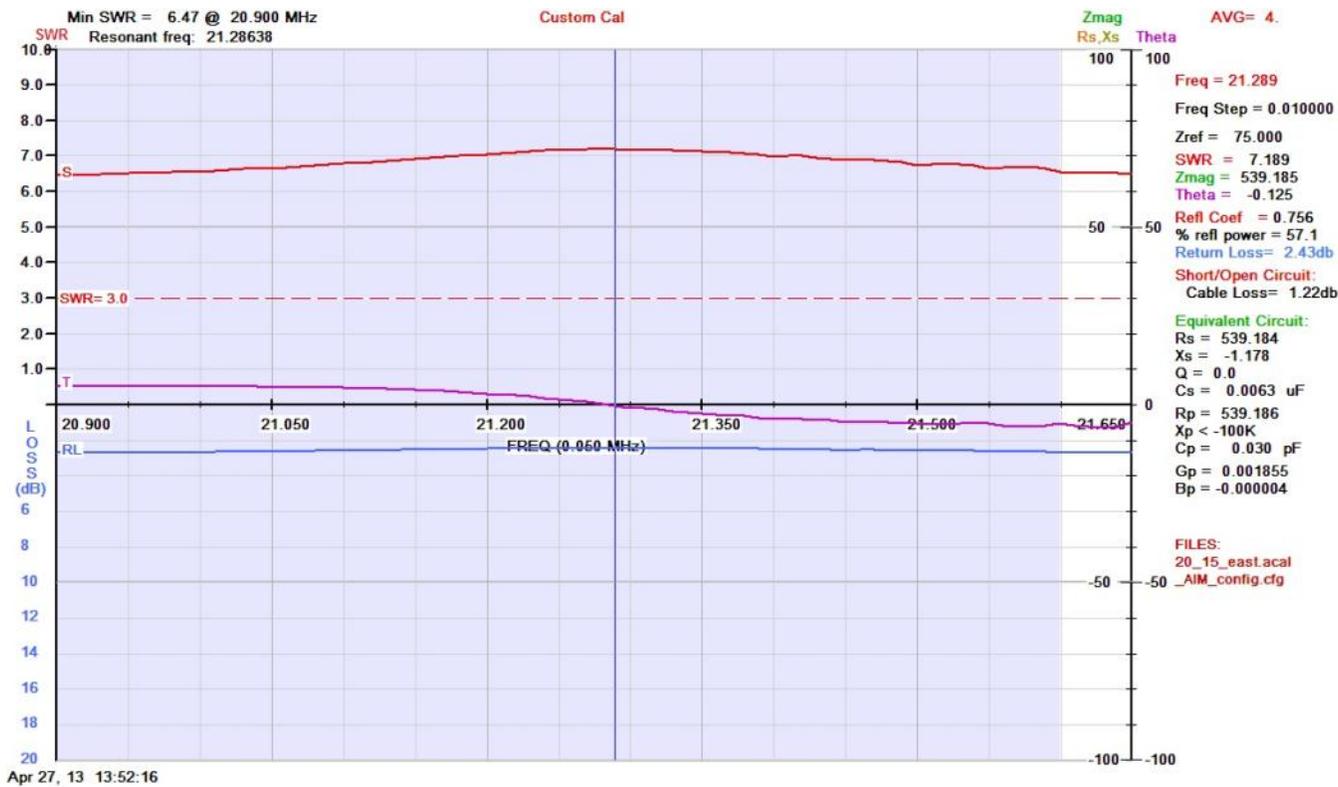
**Figure 1**

Before I became a ham, I remodeled my home to convert a loft into a 3rd story. My architect designed an iron bannister and safety rails. They are very pretty, but the wires for this year’s antennas are only a few feet away from the 2” iron pipe and stainless steel wire from which they were made! Alas, both modeling and measurement with an RF ammeter show that the bannister resonates beautifully on 10 and 20 meters, as well as adding a lot of antenna effect.

Second, the homes in my complex have a first floor wrapped in stucco: galvanized wire and light weight concrete. I had hoped that the wire had become non-conductive in the past 20 years, but when I cut out a rectangle for my antenna entry port (see Jug #489), my multi-meter quickly disabused me of that notion! So, I added the stucco to the model, using boxes of their outer dimensions to keep the virtual segment count reasonable (the figure 1 model uses nearly all of the 1500 segments allowed by EZNEC+ on 10 meters).

**Continued on page 7**





Figures of the EZNEC SWR calculations for the east-most 15/20 dipole, along with AIM 4170 scans of the actual antenna are shown. This is an apples and oranges comparison, since I was unable to trim this antenna to resonance at the same frequency as the model (and, didn't update the model to match reality).

The antenna trimming was a physical limitation: I couldn't reach all of the wire ends once they were in place, and my attempt at pre-positioning them indoors and trimming them was not successful. Not updating the model was simply fatigue.

This was a lot of work, without much return. The model is not even finished: the gutters and downspout files are not done (and not included), nor are the feedlines or chokes included. To do it again, I would not spend the time to create the files for the stucco or bannister. Instead, I would focus on the antennas themselves to see how they interacted, and then adjust the model to the actual frequencies of the antennas as built to improve the model.

That said, I have the data now. If anyone has comments on how I can improve my model, or modeling in general, I would be grateful to receive them.

My experience with these antennas since last fall matches my expectations based on the modeling, with the exception of the 15/20 meter "beam". But, this is subjective: I have not done the objective testing demonstrated in some of the other recent NCCC presentations on antennas for small shacks. I hope to utilize some of those techniques for changes I plan on making this summer!

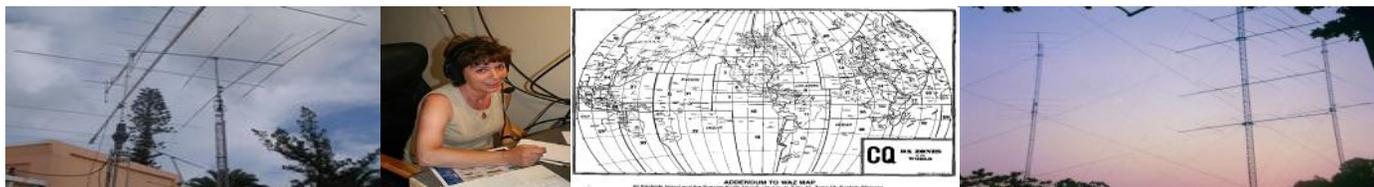
73, Byron N6NUL



Please consider writing an article for JUG !

## June 2013 Newsletter Deadline—June 3rd

This is your newsletter so lets make it something we are proud of. I hope you will consider writing an article for the JUG! Whether its about your station, recent contest experience or a technical article we would appreciate hearing from you. Send your articles to Ian W6TCP [w6tcp@comcast.net](mailto:w6tcp@comcast.net)



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**(800) 854-6046**  
Janet, KL7MF, Mgr.  
anaheim@hamradio.com

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50/2M/220/440 HT

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• 50W 2M, 45W on 440MHz • Weather Alert • 1000+ Memories • WIRES capability • Wideband receiver (cell blocked)

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• Wideband RX - 900 memories  
• 5W 2/440, 1.5W 220 MHz TX • Li-Ion Battery - EAI system • Fully submersible to 3 ft. • CW trainer built-in

**Now Low Price!**



### FT-450D 100W HF + 6M Transceiver

• 100W HF/6M • Auto tuner built-in • DSP built-in • 500 memories • DNR, IF Notch, IF Shift

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### FT-8800R 2M/440 Mobile

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