

Earl's Ramble

Published for members and friends of the...

Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club



An ARRL affiliated club

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Well April has come and gone bringing us a better month of May. I hope everyone is out and enjoying our low humidity weather.

It has been a busy month behind the scenes here at S.H.A.R.C. Our 70 CM repeater is now back on the air on 443.800 with no PL tone at this time. The 70cm repeater is C4FM enabled as well as FM mode and has a footprint almost as good as our 2m repeater.

Our club officially now has a new Club Trustee, Bruce King. Our Field day preparations are moving forward and going well. Our Trailer/tower has now been registered and we will be checking the trailer out and making any repairs as necessary in preparations for field day. I am hoping for a great turn out for field day this year, remember that your enthusiasm is key to promoting any club activities.

Just a reminder that our new Club meeting start time is at 6:30 pm. The change in time will allow us 30 minutes for any meet and greets and/or social time, with the actually meeting beginning at 7 pm. Have a great Month of May ahead.

Thanks,
Earl
K4EEB

Always Looking For News
If you're working a CW QSO and mention the
Neighbors unruly cat and your dog starts growling,
we want to know about it!

INSIDE:

- PLEASE PROVIDE FEEDBACK!
- DUES REMINDER

SHARC Repeater Information

Repeaters are open to all licensed amateurs...membership not required but we sure would like you to join!
2 Meter: 146.805 MHz-600K no tone
70 CM: 443.800 MHz + 5M no tone
SSTV @ 6:30 PM Tuesday*
SHARCnet @ 7:30 PM Tuesday*
70 cm Ragchew Net - Mon. @ 7:00** PM**

SHARC Meetings Information

Regular monthly meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month.
UF/IFAS Ext. Bldg.
16110 Aviation Loop-Next to P.O.
Please use side door.
Visitors are always welcome!
Meetings begin at 7:00 PM.
Stop by early and say, "Hi!"

Mothers Day May 11



SHARC 2025 FIELD DAY



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN THE SPRINGHILL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S ARRL FIELD DAY EVENT ON JUNE 28-29, 2025! THIS IS A FUN, COMMUNITY FOCUSED EVENT WHERE WE WILL BE PRACTICING EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND MAKING CONTACTS WITH OTHER AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS. THIS YEAR ALSO MARKS 40 YEARS OF BEING A RADIO CLUB. SO PLEASE COME ON OUT AND CELEBRATE WITH US. THERE WILL BE FOOD, REFRESHMENTS, AND GOOD CONVERSATIONS.



CQ FIELD DAY



DATE: JUNE 28 AND 29 2025
TIME: 02:00 PM SATURDAY
TO 02:00 SUNDAY (24 HR)
LOCATION: LINDA PETERSEN PARK
6400 SHOAL LINE BLVD.
SPRINGHILL FL 34607
CONTACT: W3BMK BRUCE
EMAIL: FD@SPRINGHILLARC.ORG





East Pasco Amateur Radio Society

HAMFEST 2025

MAY 10th 7am to 12

INDOOR TABLES AVAILABLE

Featuring:

- * Swap meet
- * Food & Drink available indoors
- * VE testing (Pre-registration)
email: testing@eparsonline.org
- * ATM available
- * Restrooms on premises
- * Door prize drawings



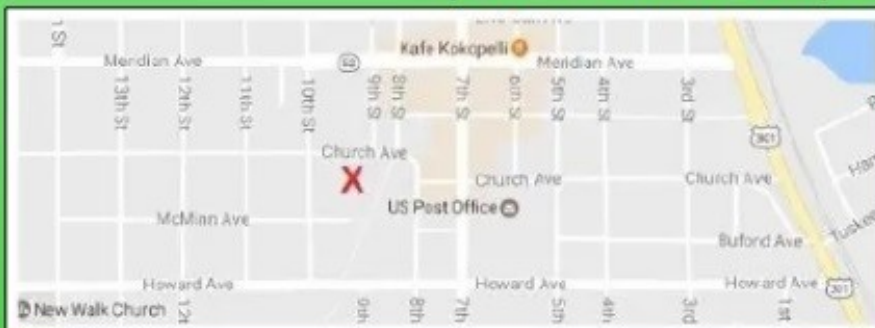
HAMFEST LOCATION

American Legion
 37745 Church Ave.
 Dade City FL 33525
 Testing is 9 am
 Talk in 146.880 rpt

Admission \$5
 Outdoor spot add \$5
 Indoor Tables add \$10
 Extra raffle tickets
 \$2 ea. or 3 for \$5



EPARSONLINE.ORG



Hamfest contact - Chris AA4CB - hamfest@eparsonline.org

6 METER Band By Chris Bloxson AA4CB



"Six meters" (referring to the 50-54 MHz amateur radio band) is often busy especially during the summer and late December to January when there are very good times of propagation, with activity including FM, digital modes and meteor scatter.

- **What is "Six Meters"?**

The "six-meter band" refers to the amateur radio band in the 50-54 MHz frequency range. Most of the HF radios produced in the past 10 years now include 6 meters. In the past you had to buy a single band radio, unfortunately most of them were FM only. There was a small selection of multi-mode 6m radios.

- **Why is it busy?**

This band is known for its unique propagation characteristics, allowing for long-distance communication, especially during periods of good solar activity and during meteor showers.

- **Activities on Six Meters:**

- FM: The band is also used for FM (frequency modulation) communications, which is common for local and short-range contacts.
- Digital modes : Digital modes like FT8 and RTTY are also used on six meters.
- Meteor Scatter: One of the popular activities is bouncing signals off the ionized trails left by meteors, a technique known as "6-meter meteor scatter".
- During periods of high sunspot activity, six-meter signals can travel long distances, even worldwide, making it a "magic band" for some operators.

- **Current conditions:**

While it's difficult to predict the exact conditions on six meters, it's generally known to be busy during times of good propagation, which can vary depending on solar activity and other factors.

- **50.100-50.500 Mhz**

This area of the Six Meter band is where you can find a mixture of telephony and digital modes.

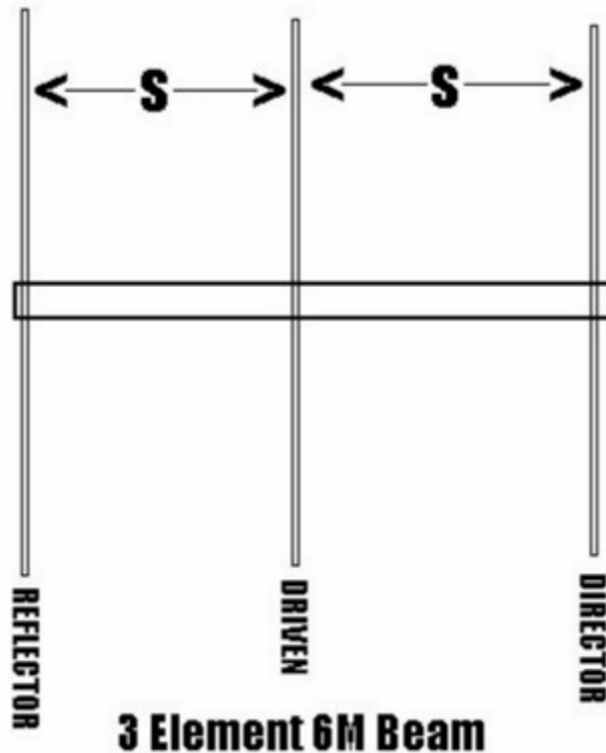
The next couple of pages are from an old article that I wrote many years ago. Sorry I do not have any real photos of the antenna(s) but it has been over 20 years since this was first published. Antennas are pretty small to build for this band. I have built many different variations of yagi, loops and dipoles. It does not take that much to get on the air.



I will give instructions on a couple of antennas that I have built myself. I like to recycle and one of my main resources for parts have been TV antennas that people have discarded. They are almost the size that you need to get on Six meters. It is a very light weight material. I start with taking the antenna apart piece by piece. Being careful of drilling out the rivets. Recycle as much as you can and do not throw away any of the small parts. You never know what you might need later down the road.



The first antenna is going to be a 3 element yagi.



| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Reflector----- | -----115 and 1/2 inches |
| Driven----- | -----111 inches |
| Director----- | -----106 and 1/2 inches |

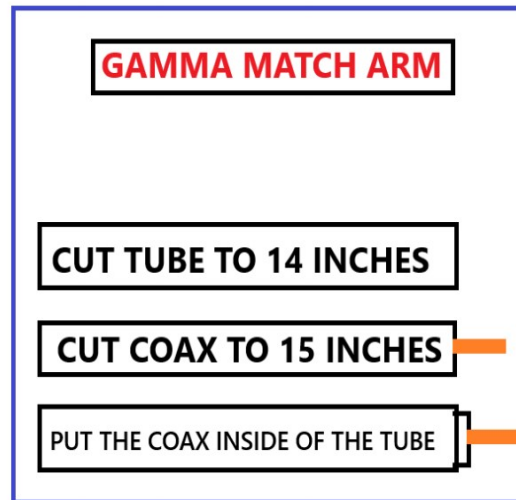
Boom length is 72 inches. (6 feet) It can be a little longer if you wish but we will try to stay with these dimensions to the spacing and element lengths. The boom is 1 and a ¼ inch.
Spacing between elements is 34 and 1/2 inches. The elements I used are aluminum tubing of 1/16-inch wall thickness. (you can cut up an old TV antenna, they work great). Most TV antennas do not come in that size so you might have to do a little splicing of the tubes. Slice one end and push the other tube inside for a tight fit.

Gamma Match Construction

To attach the gamma rod to the antenna you will need to mount an SO-239 chassis connector to the center of the driven element. This can be made from a piece of sheet metal about 1 inch wide by 3 inches long. (See drawing below) Bend the long side of the sheet metal into an L-shape so that you now have a 2x1 inch surface and a 1x1 inch on a 90 degree angle. Then center punch the 2x1 side and mount the SO-239 connector in the middle. Next bend the 1x1 inch surface onto the center of the driven element and secure it with 2 sheet metal screws.

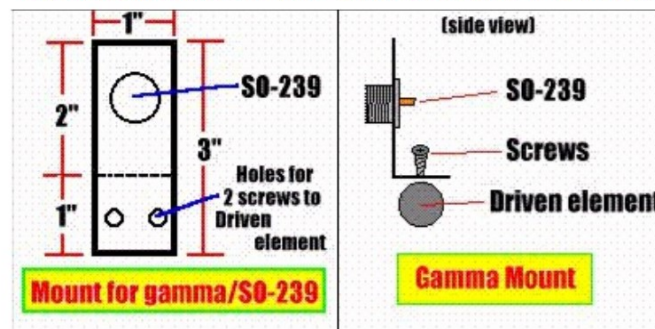


Gamma match construction

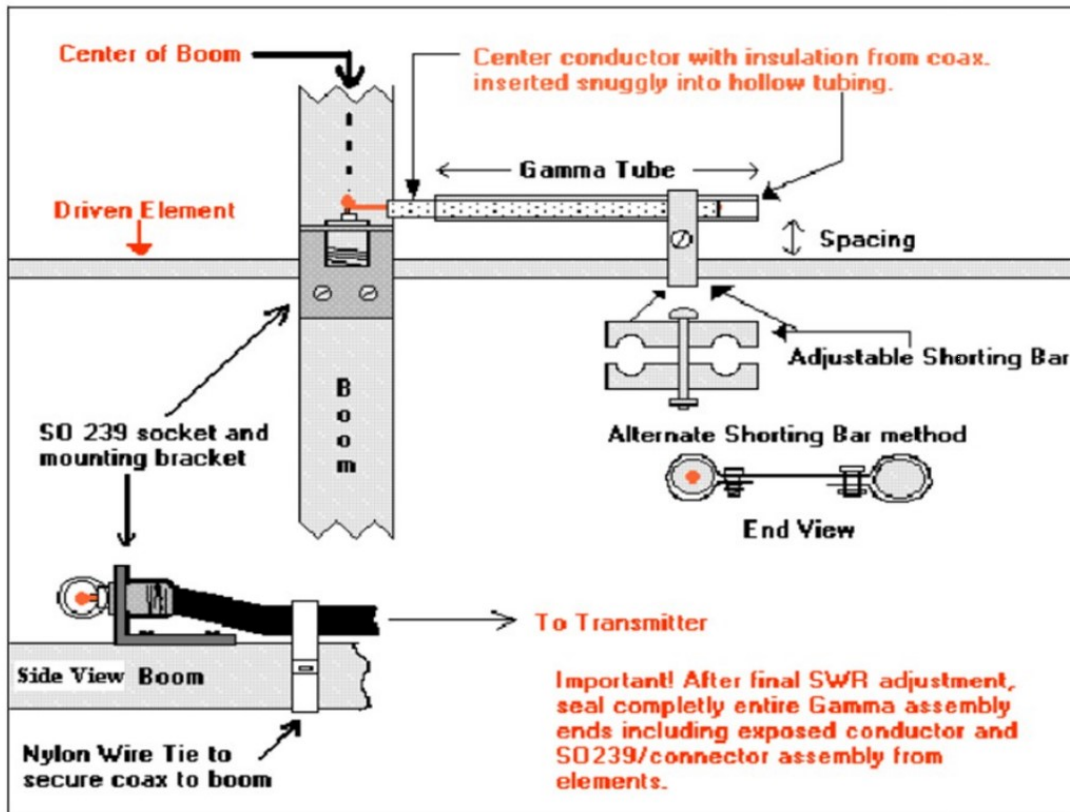


The gamma match is made from 3/8 inch tubing. The inner portion is cut from RG-8 coax after you remove the black 'skin' and the copper braid. You can attach 50 ohm coax to this antenna after you add a gamma match. Once you have this antenna put all together you can adjust the match by sliding the shortening strap and the gamma tube in and out (or up and down however you look at it) for lowest S.W.R.

GAMMA MOUNT BRACKET ASSEMBLY



Now you will need to get some more sheet metal to build the shortening strap, (*I cut a short piece of the tubing and flatten it out, Look at the 'Alternate Shortening bar method*) of the gamma this may vary in size depending on the tubing size and the space from driven to the gamma match. The spacing of the gamma match is usually about 1.5 to 2 inches from the driven element . To make the SHORTENING strap make a 1 inch strip about 6 inches long. Take this strip and bend it around the driven and over to the gamma. Make sure it folds back over so that you can drill 1 hole at each end. You can use your own construction methods and fabrication. The gamma match is mounted along the side of the driven after you have soldered the inner conductor of the gamma to the center of the SO-239. See drawing below for typical gamma match placement and construction



Mounting the elements to the boom. If you used a TV antenna then there should be plastic mounting hardware that can be reused. Clean it up and hit the hardware store for some long machine screws and nuts to secure the element to the boom. If you do not have them brackets you can make something out of plastic. I find that the white cutting board that the Dollar tree sells for \$1.25 is a good and strong material. It will last many years and is easy to drill holes and mount hardware too.



Hopefully you now have the antenna assembled and let's test it out but first we will need to get the SWR down in range. Set your radio to 50.130 and adjust the gamma strap and or the tube to get the SWR to its lowest. Once you have that tighten it all up and mount it to a pole. If you are operating SSB/Digital you will want to mount the antenna horizontally. If you plan on operating FM then Vertical and tune to 52.530 Mhz.

Most importantly you will need to get on the air and call CQ. You never know what you might hear. Next month we will show you how to get on the 6m band with a little bit of wire.



Chris Bloxsom AA4CB
aa4cb@arrl.net @aa4cb
 qr-zed 6 meters from Echo Lima 88

We Need your Feedback

Hi, I'm Jerry Sweet, editor for the SHARC newsletter. We need your ideas, information, and articles to help our newsletter grow. Please send them to newsletter@springhillarc.org or call me at 727-857-6204.



73's
Jerry
KO4RDI



Spring Hill Amateur Radio Club

SHARC would love to hear from you! Please refer to the following contact information:

President: Earn Brannon - KO4PBS@Gmail.com

Vice President: Bernie Bathauer - Bathauer@Gate.net

Treasurer: Wayne Boyd - WBoyd7388@Gmail.com

Secretary: Carol Socash - CarolSocash@bellsouth.net

Director: Mike Hayes - Mike.Hayes317@Gmail.com

Repeaters: Bruce King - MSGTBK@Yahoo.com

Newsletter: Jerry Sweet - JSweet26@TampaBay.rr.com

Send Snail Mail to: [SHARC, PO Box 6083, Spring Hill, FL 34611](#)