

We Don't Need No Stinking Antenna

K9W seemed pretty strong on 160 just after their sunset (11pm here) – but the “good” 160 m antenna here (45' fiberglass pole with Inv-Vee) was not up and putting it up in the dark would be a fool's errand, even for this one.

So a plan was quickly hatched to have a go at it using a 30' mast made from 3 of Radio Shack's finest 10' steel masts, with the old Inv-Vee hooked on top. This went surprisingly well with the mast attached in the usual base – but then it seemed that the antenna wires and coax (RG58, also Radio Shack) had conspired to become twisted together. (All pix are the morning after of course.)



The XYL was drawn into play, just as she was about to hit the shower (yet she was eager to help. maybe), to stand back with a flashlight to determine which ways pairs of wires needed to be rotated to

untangle. While this worked to some level, the prior view of the XYL of this operator's sanity was now set beyond doubt.

Next the wires of the antenna were carefully put in place. Remember kids, always keep your antenna high and clear of stuff, but sometimes you have to live with the non-ideal. Here is one end carefully looped over the top of the fence. Note that the dangling brown insulator is in the clear. The wire was a bit low in the middle (plus antenna was resonant below band) so these were both fixed by simply boosting the wire to the roof.



The other wire was looped to a different fence and then the remainder was run along that fence. Never forget to use an insulator.



All now was in readiness but it has taken a bit longer than planned and K9W had departed the band and did not return within the hour waited.

But not all is lost, set the alarm for 04 dark hundred and actually managed to get out of bed – there is K9W (but not as strong) and he is running the US on 160. Due to their great popularity no call was

attempted for most of an hour. Then it tapered off and K9W even had an occasional CQ to stir up business. To my shock, within 5 minutes, N6MW was “in the log” - a true tribute to ears.

So just because your antenna is cheesy, have a try because really -

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