

The Road to 1500

A Heartwarming Tale of Trial,
despair, deceit, success

by

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“I never met a watt I didn’t like”

This presentation is certified to be organic, natural
and content free

Why Build a High Power Station?

- **To Make more contacts! Duh!**
- **-More DX**
- **-Higher Contest Scores**
- **-More Fun, Less Frustration**
- **-Because You Can**

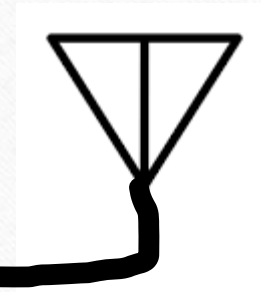
First HF Station



Transceiver



Tuner



Wire Dipole

First Actual DX – *GERMANY!*



Despair!

The Heartbreak of a Weak Signal

- You call a DX station, He answers back, but not to you
- You call again, he answers back, but not to you
- Repeat endlessly



I Need an AMP!

But What to Buy?

- 500W
- 1000W
- 1500W
- More



- Tube Type
- Solid State
- Auto Tune
- Manual Tune
- Fixed
- Mobile

My Decision Was Easy!

Woodsman and log cutter
Don, W0DEW, made the
decision for me

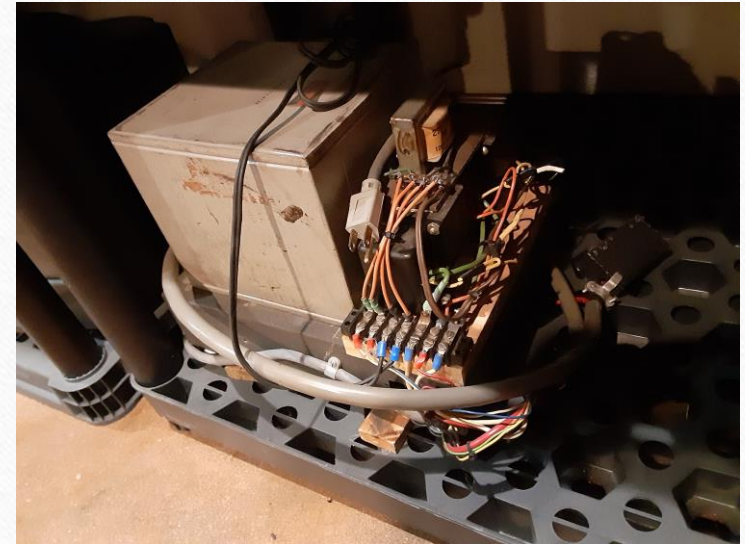


Gee Don, It's a SWAN Mark 2!



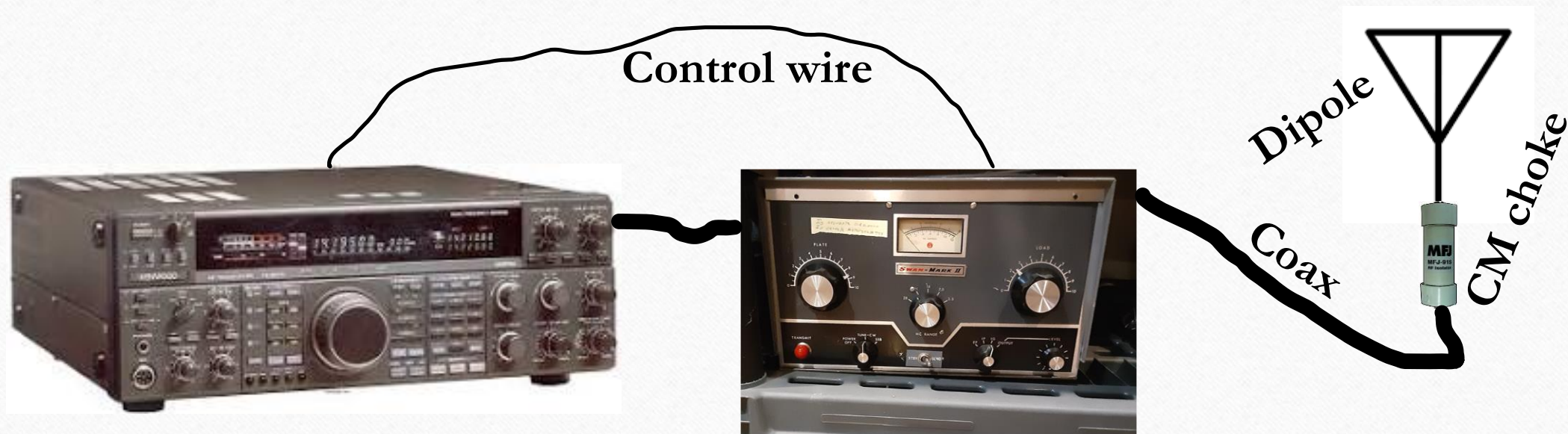
Amplifier

*Two 3-500Z
tubes
Three knobs
120 volts AC
\$300*



Heavy Power Supply

My 500 Watt Station *Works GREAT!*





Oh, Oh, Trouble!

The Good and the Bad



- Made lots of contacts*
- Broke into pileups*
- Scored higher in contests*

- Stereo thumps*
- Bedroom radio turns on & off*
- Washing machine stops*

If 500 Watts is Good
Maybe 1200 is Better



SDR
TRANSCEIVER



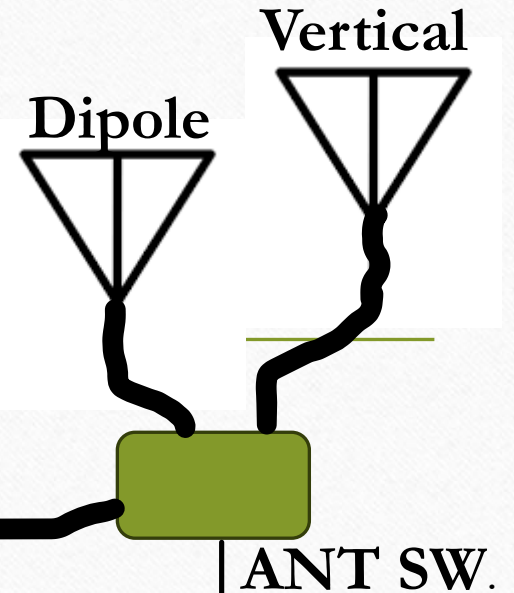
AUTO TUNER



SOLID STATE AMP

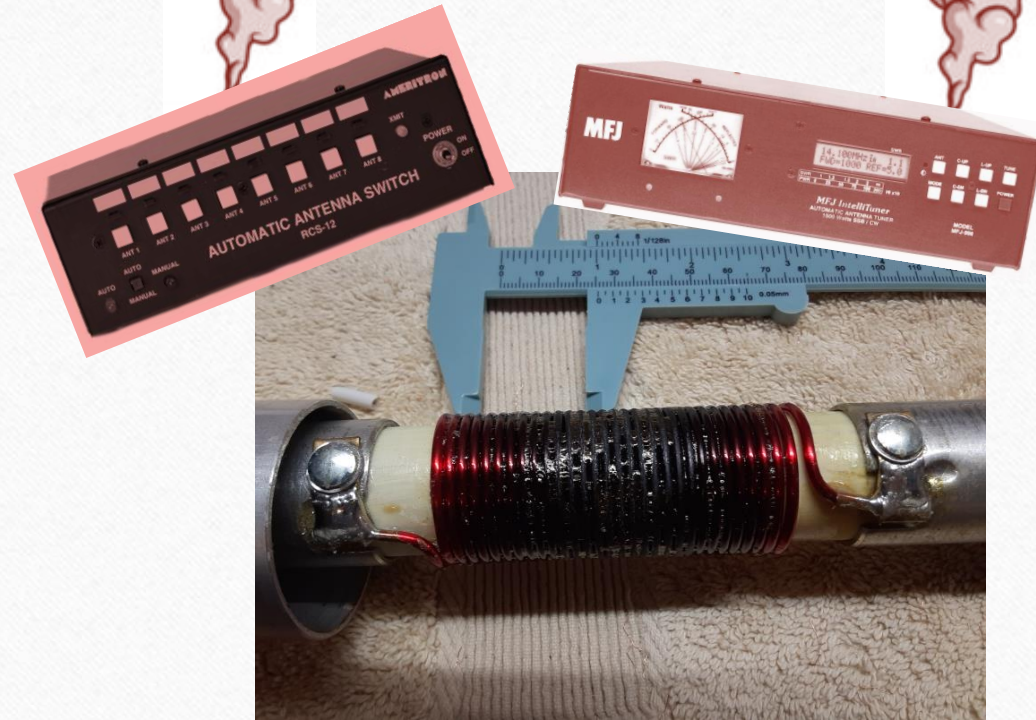


REMOTE CONTROLLER



More Power = More Problems

- Ant Switch burned out
- Tuner burned out
- Vertical trap burned
- Garage door operated spastically



LESSONS LEARNED – FIXES

Gear burns out & RF is everywhere

- A Problem

- Most ham stuff is rated PEP
- PEP = Weaker than you think

- Another Problem

- RF in the Shack
- Spastic Garage Door Opener

The Solution

- Buy stronger Gear
- Don't believe ads
- Shorten cables
- Replace door opener

NEWS FLASH!

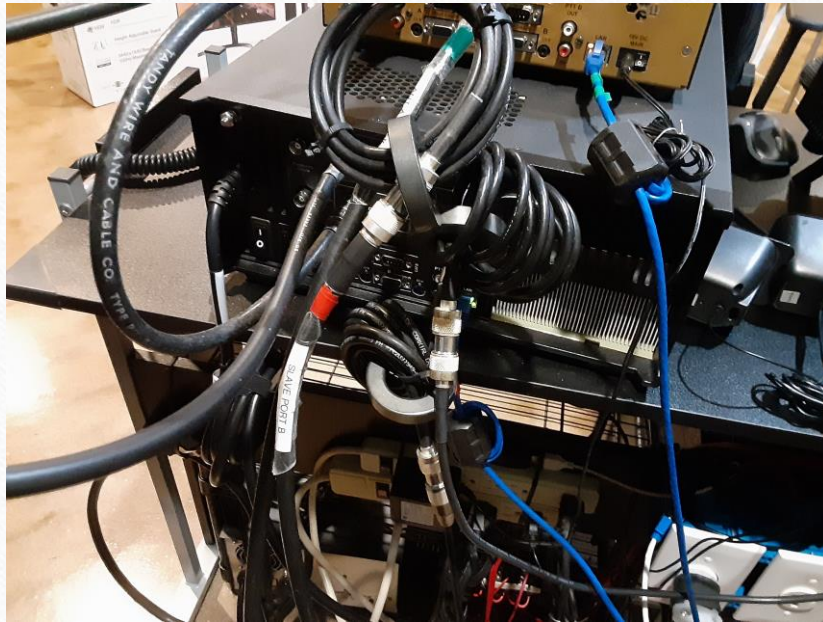
Ferrites Cure RF in the Shack

- A grossly over-priced RF Ammeter helps find CM current
- Mix 31 toroids and clamp-on ferrites from Palomar Engineering suppressed all the RF in the shack
- Wound about 10 turns of coax through ring. Used about \$100 worth of ferrites



A Peek Behind the Curtain

The Fix Is In



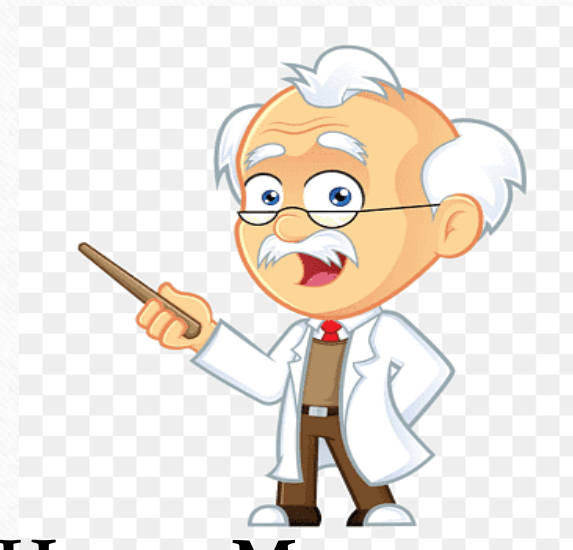
Amp/Tuner Connections



Antenna Selector Switch

Bigger, Badder Stuff Cures Breakdowns

- Replaced the Ameritron amp with a Flex PGXL. Loafs along at 1500W.
- Replaced the Tuner with a Flex TGXL which loafs along at 1500W.
- Replaced the antenna switch with a DX Engineering 5KW switch. Not sure if it's loafing.



Happy Me,
Everything Works!

Oh, Oh



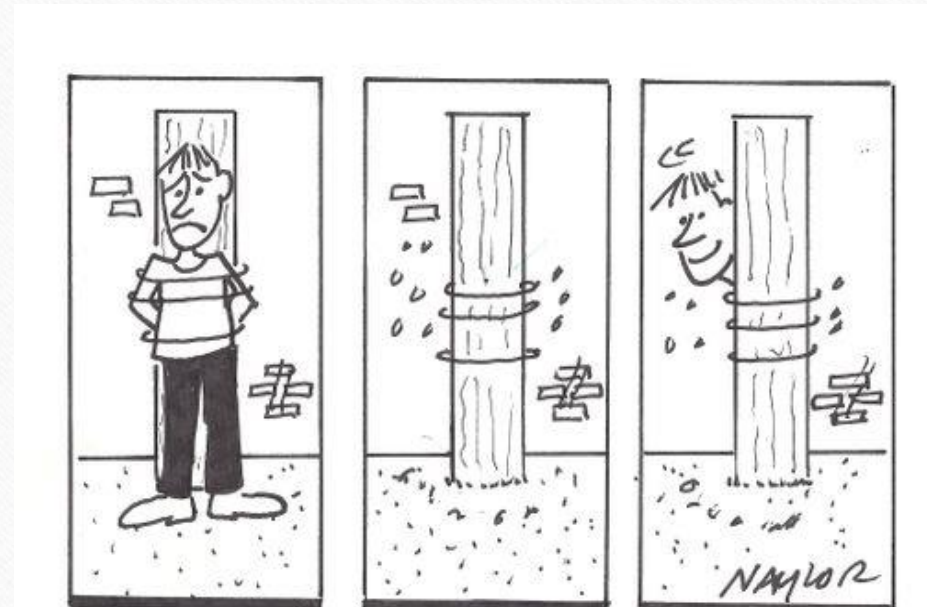
**Angry neighbor says he
has proof I'm causing his:**

- Ooma VoIP phone to randomly dial
- Sound system to make noise
- TV to change channels

Ferrites to the Rescue - again

I Dodged a bullet

- He did not accept my explanation that he was the lucky neighbor, no others were able to monitor my transmissions
- I gave him some toroids and clamp-on beads and explained how to apply them
- **Problem fixed!**
- No, I did not offer to help with the fix



Happiness! *At Last*



Everything works!

That's my story...

