

Antenna Adjectives – Words Aplenty

by
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Hats off to George Carlin!

There are as many different antenna designs as there are past issues of your favorite monthly ham magazine. Said in jest, but pretty much true. Look at your stockpile of old QST's or CQ's lying in the corner. There is at least one, if not more, antenna write-ups each month and this has been going on since the beginning of Ham Time. What this shows is that, antennas have always been a cornerstone of ham interest and ingenuity.

Have you ever REALLY thought about it? “It” being the number of different antenna types. Take a minute or two and think of all of the ham antenna offerings that you have seen. It's quite the selection of commercial and build-able designs. Plus, there are all of those you have not seen or heard of. All generating, literally, a plethora of modifiers in an adjective junkie's comfort zone.

To get it started..... there are VHF, UHF and HF antennas. Also; directional, omni-directional, rotatable, stackable, phased and parasitic antennas. Mobile, base, fixed and portable antennas. Trapped, top loaded, end loaded, center loaded and base loaded antennas. Shortened, extended, long, bent and folded antennas. Center fed, end fed, off-center fed, current fed, voltage fed, coaxial fed and open wire fed antennas. Matched, un-matched, resonant, non-resonant and random length antennas. Inline, offset, NVIS and DX antennas. Vertical, horizontal, tilted, inverted and sloping antennas. Circular, square, rectangular, collinear and loop antennas. Tower mounted, ground mounted and elevated antennas. Curtains, Bazookas, Dishes, Helixes, Bowties, Turnstiles, Slots and Fractal antennas. Uni's, mono's, singles, bi's, di's, dual's, tri's, quads and multi antennas. C's, H's, J's, L's, T's, U's, V's and X antennas. $\frac{1}{4}wl$, $\frac{1}{2}wl$, $\frac{5}{8}wl$ and $1wl$ antennas. Squares, rectangular, cubical, triangular, diamond, rhombic, zigzag, and delta antennas. G5RV's, W8JK's, ZLs, ZS6BKW's, Maxon's, Beverage's, Bruce's, Sterba's, Franklin's, Yagi-Uda's, Marconi's, Hertz's, Windom's, Ewe's, Mystery, Birdcages, OWL's, Bobtail's, Spiders, Hens, Swiss's, Cobras, Snakes, Logs, Waves, EDZs, Flags, Pennants, Screw Drivers, Standing wave, Traveling wave, terminated, un-terminated, etc., etc., etc.

The list isn't endless, but it would take you quite sometime to design and build all of the antenna types mentioned. Speaking of that, why not then, a new award -- “Worked All Antennas” ?? Start by getting out and reviewing all of those old Ham Radio rags in the hall closet. (Finally, a reason for you to have kept them all of these years.) You will have a new and very interesting ham radio project, plus a cleaner closet, for which your wife will love you. Sounds like a win-win situation all around.