By Jim Streible, K4DLI

There were many new and somewhat unfamiliar antennas used at this year's NFARL Field Day. One of these was the one for the CW station. This antenna is basically two 5/8 wave antennas end to end. It can be fed with ladder line from the center insulator to tuner or it can use an impedance transforming length of ladder line to take the impedance to 50 ohms and fed from there to the rig with 50 ohm coax. That would limit it use (without a tuner) to a single band – 40 meters. To make it an efficient antenna system on multiple bands, ladder line to a balanced tuner should be used and this was the configuration at the 2009 NFARL FD. Shown in the paper are the plots and impedance calculations for all bands from 160 thru 6 meters.

This antenna was feed with 450-ohm ladder line and tuned with a Johnson Match Box. It can be used on all bands from 160 to 6 meters. Gain on 160 is about 2.8 dbi at a 40-degree take off angle with maximum gain directly over head. The antennas design frequency is 40-meters.



By using 450-ohm ladder line this antenna can be utilized on almost any frequency in the HF region. A good balanced tuner is required for optimum operation. Other methods, such as a 4:1 or 9:1 balun and then coax into the shack can be tried however, there will be a high SWR on the coax in most cases.

The matched line loss per 100 feet of 450-ohm ladder line is 0.146 db at 28 MHz. The matched line loss in RG-213 at the same frequency is 1.142 db. With a 7:1 SWR the RG-213 will have an additional loss of 1.903 db for a total loss of 3.045 db. 450-ohm ladder line with the same 7:1 SWR has an additional loss of 0.332 db for a total loss of 0.478 db. That is a difference of 2.57 db. That means that <u>almost</u> twice as much power would reach the antenna for a 100 foot run using the 450-ohm ladder line then you would get with 100 feet of RG-213. There are also other items to consider such as obtaining a match and voltage break down when operation at a high SWR for multi-band operation.





Source Data:

O D dB

Front/Sidelobe

- 1.830 MHz. Voltage = 2819 V at 0.0 deg. Current = 10.16 A at 87.0 deg. Impedance = 14.52 - J 277 ohms Power = 1500 watts SWR (50 ohm system) > 100 (450 ohm system) = 42.735
- 3.550 MHz. Voltage = 994.5 V at 0.0 deg. Current = 2.405 A at -51.15 deg.

Impedance = 259.4 + J 322.1 ohms Power = 1500 watts SWR (50 ohm system) = 13.306 (450 ohm system) = 2.849

5.500 MHz. Voltage = 1343 V at 0.0 deg. Current = 1.59 A at 45.41 deg. Impedance = 593.1 - J 601.5 ohms Power = 1500 watts SWR (50 ohm system) = 24.107 (450 ohm system) = 3.111

7.050 MHz. Voltage = 1189 V at 0.0 deg. Current = 3.601 A at 69.49 deg. Impedance = 115.7 - J 309.3 ohms Power = 1500 watts SWR (50 ohm system) = 19.231 (450 ohm system) = 5.812



Front/Sidelobe 0.0 dB





Source Data:

50.1 MHz Voltage = 618 V at 0.0 deg. Current = 2.504 A at 14.26 deg. Impedance = 239.2 - J 60.77 ohms Power = 1500 watts SWR (50 ohm system) = 5.106 (450 ohm system) = 1.929 28.050 MHz Voltage = 815.7 V at 0.0 deg. Current = 2.303 A at 37.0 deg. Impedance = 282.9 - J 213.2 ohms Power = 1500 watts SWR (50 ohm system) = 8.935 (450 ohm system) = 2.10024.900 MHz Voltage = 579.6 V at 0.0 deg. Current = 4.07 A at 50.51 deg. Impedance = 90.55 - J 109.9 ohms Power = 1500 watts SWR (50 ohm system) = 4.823 (450 ohm system) = 5.278 21.050 MHz Voltage = 803.3 V at 0.0 deg. Current = 1.938 A at 15.57 deg. Impedance = 399.2 - J 111.2 ohms Power = 1500 watts SWR (50 ohm system) = 8.614 (450 ohm system) = 1.333 18.100 MHz Voltage = 937.1 V at 0.0 deg. Current = 3.355 A at 61.5 deg. Impedance = 133.3 - J 245.5 ohms Power = 1500 watts SWR (50 ohm system) = 12.001 (450 ohm system) = 4.452 14.050 MHz Voltage = 413.7 V at 0.0 deg. Current = 3.764 A at 15.58 deg. Impedance = 105.9 - J 29.52 ohms Power = 1500 watts SWR (50 ohm system) = 2.324 (450 ohm system) = 4.269

10.125 MHz Voltage = 982.8 V at 0.0 deg. Current = 1.537 A at -6.75 deg. Impedance = 635 + J 75.2 ohms Power = 1500 watts SWR (50 ohm system) = 12.879 (450 ohm system) = 1.450

All plots were made at a height above ground of 57.5 feet.

There will be some variations if the height is much different but, the azimuth patterns will be very much the same. The take off angle will be lower if the height is higher and they will be higher if the height is lower.