

# End Fed Antennas for Portable, Emergency & Stealth Installations



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Ham Fun Night Zoom Meeting - December 2021  
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# Palomar History

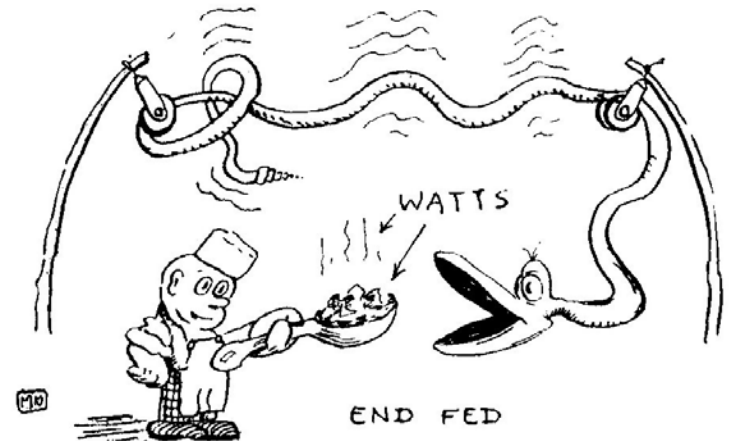
- Founded in 1965 by Jack Althouse, K6NY
- Reorganized in 2013 as RFI Solutions company by AK6R and Spouse
- Product Line
  - Ferrite Core Products
  - Baluns, Ununs & Feedline Chokes
  - Antenna Systems (OCF, End Fed, Loop, Terminated)
  - Kurt Sterba Books/Downloads
- Distribution: Ham Radio Outlet, Direct, Ebay
- Markets: Consumer, Commercial, and Military

Let's talk about RFI

# End Fed Workshop Topics



- Short overview of antenna feed points
- Dipole, OCF, Zepp, Loop overview
- Popular End Fed Antennas
- How to choose an End Fed Antenna that fits your needs
- Secrets of Non-Resonant End Fed Antennas
- Typical Configurations that work all the time
- Feed Line Chokes, Counterpoises and Coax Noise Filters
- Solving End Fed Antenna RFI Problems
- Q & A



Thinking cap time.....

# Antenna Feed Options

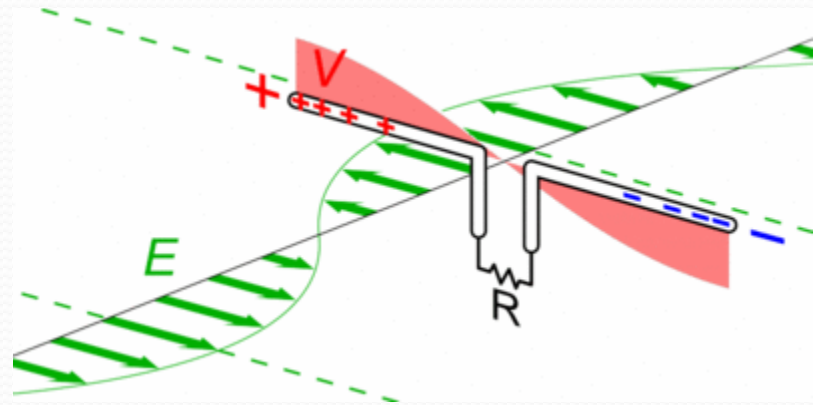
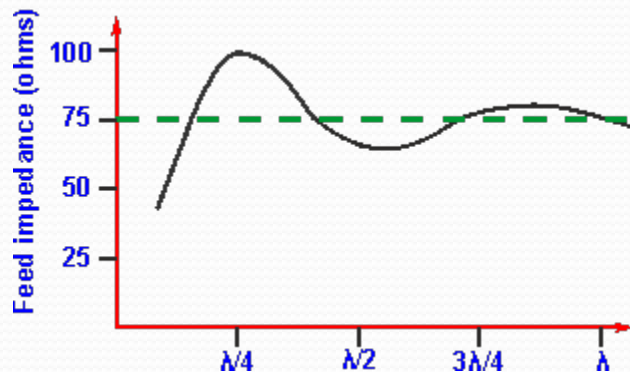
CENTER FED

OFF-CENTER FED

END FED

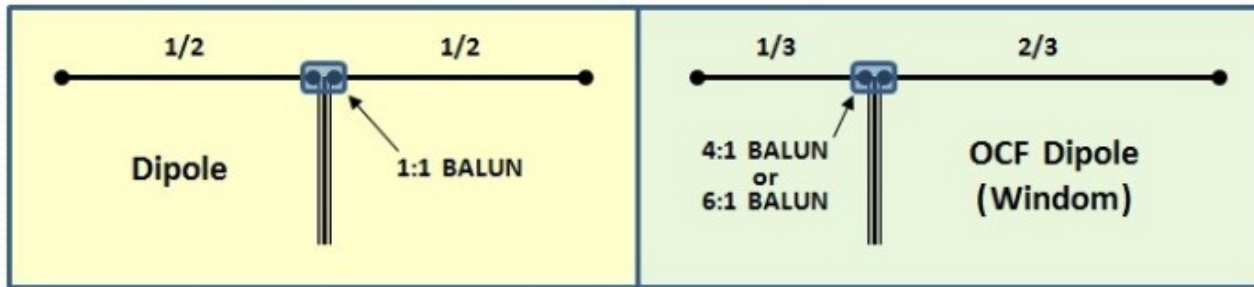
# Dipole Concepts

- Total Length is  $\frac{1}{2}$  wavelength =  $468/F(\text{MHz})$
- Center Fed (50%/50%),  $Z=25-100\Omega$  (current fed)
- Off Center Fed (66/34%, 80/20%),  $Z=200-300\Omega$
- Feed Point Impedance =  $F(\text{height above RF ground, offset})$



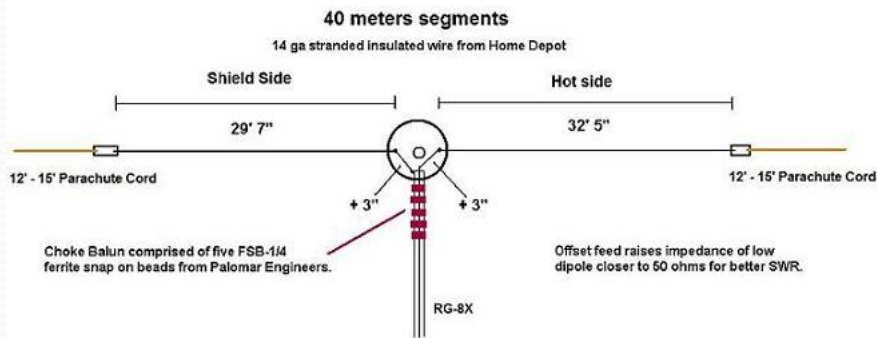
# Dipole Examples

- Center Fed Half Wave, Off Center Fed

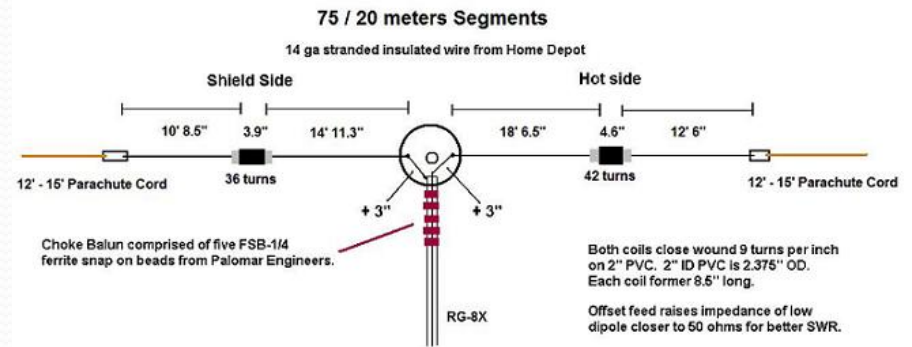


DJoIP Image

62' – 40 meters only-offset for 50Ω



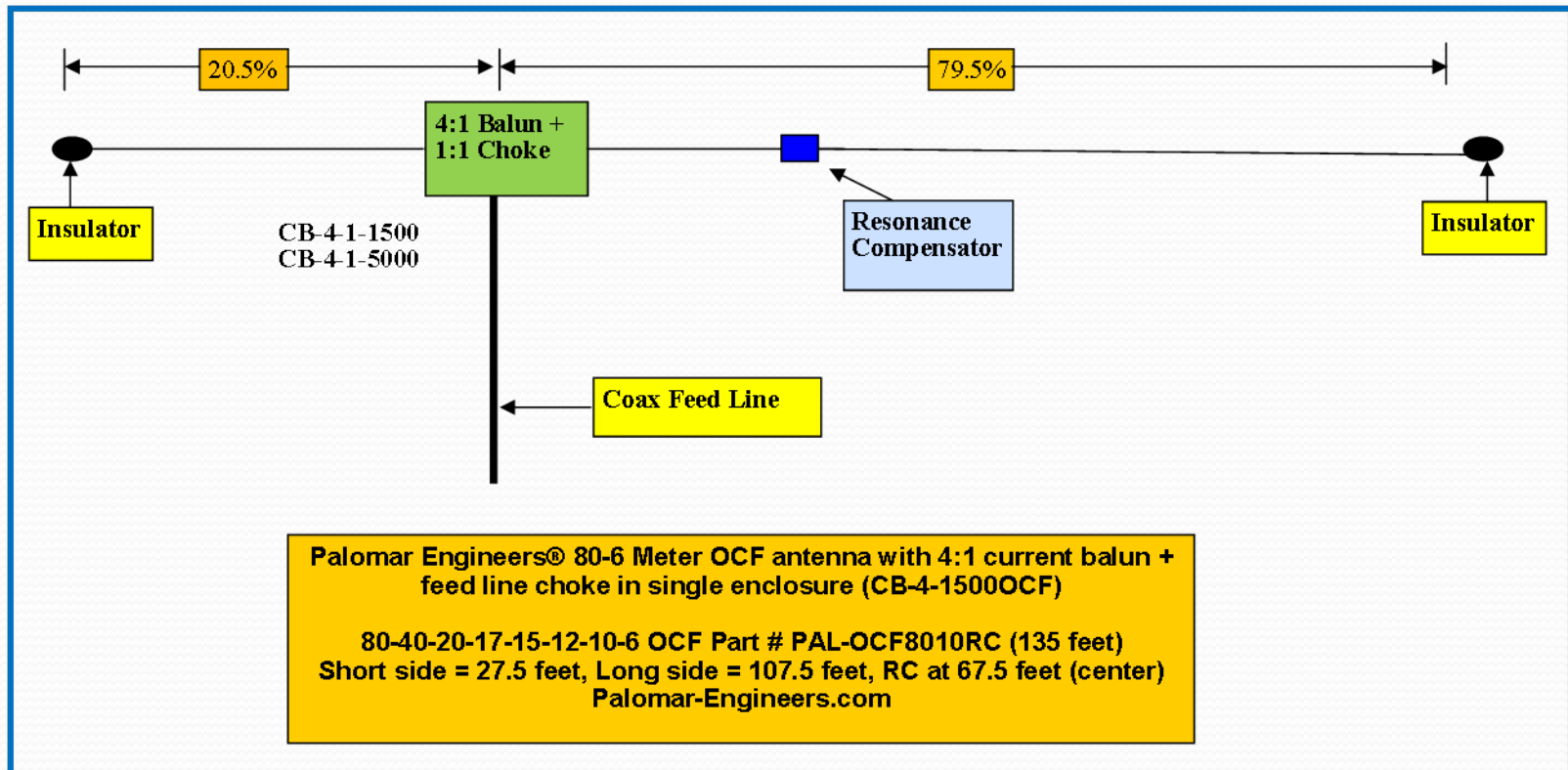
66' – 75/20 meters (traps)



Palomar OCF

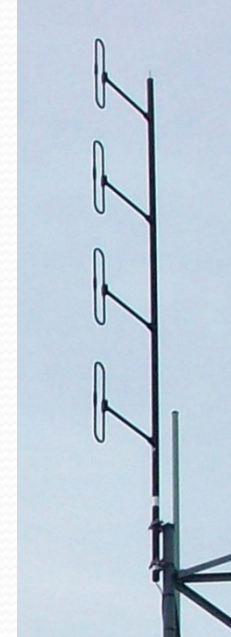
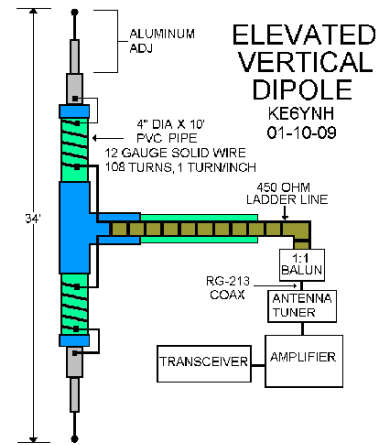
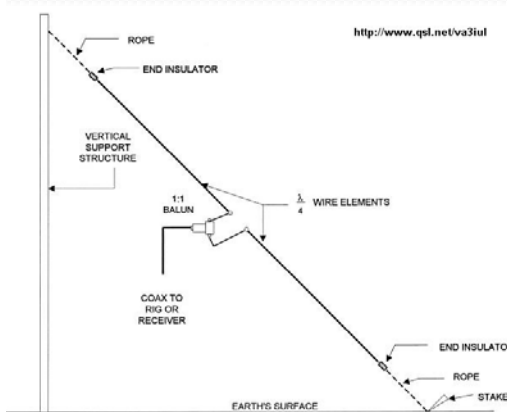
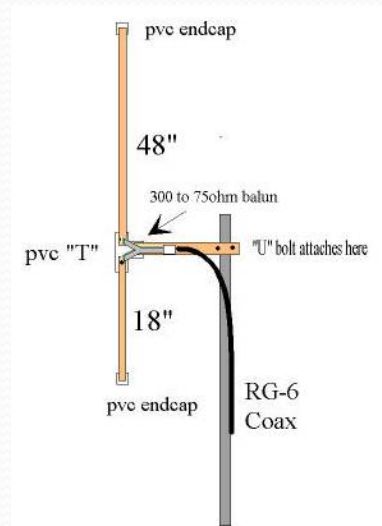
# Palomar Off Center Fed (OCF)

- 80/20%, Resonance Compensator for 80 meters



Vertical dipoles

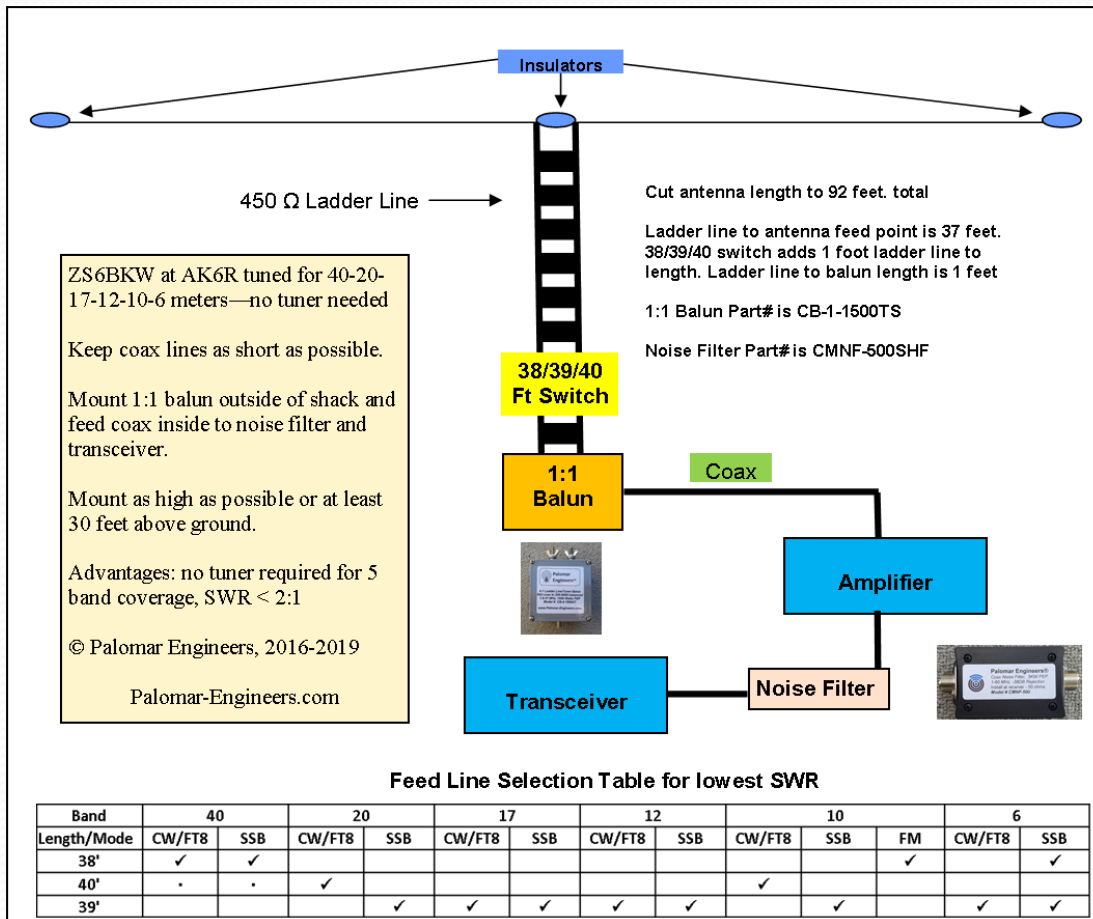
# Vertical Half Wave Dipoles



Off-Center Fed, sloper, center fed, phased



# ZS6BKW – Center Fed Zepp

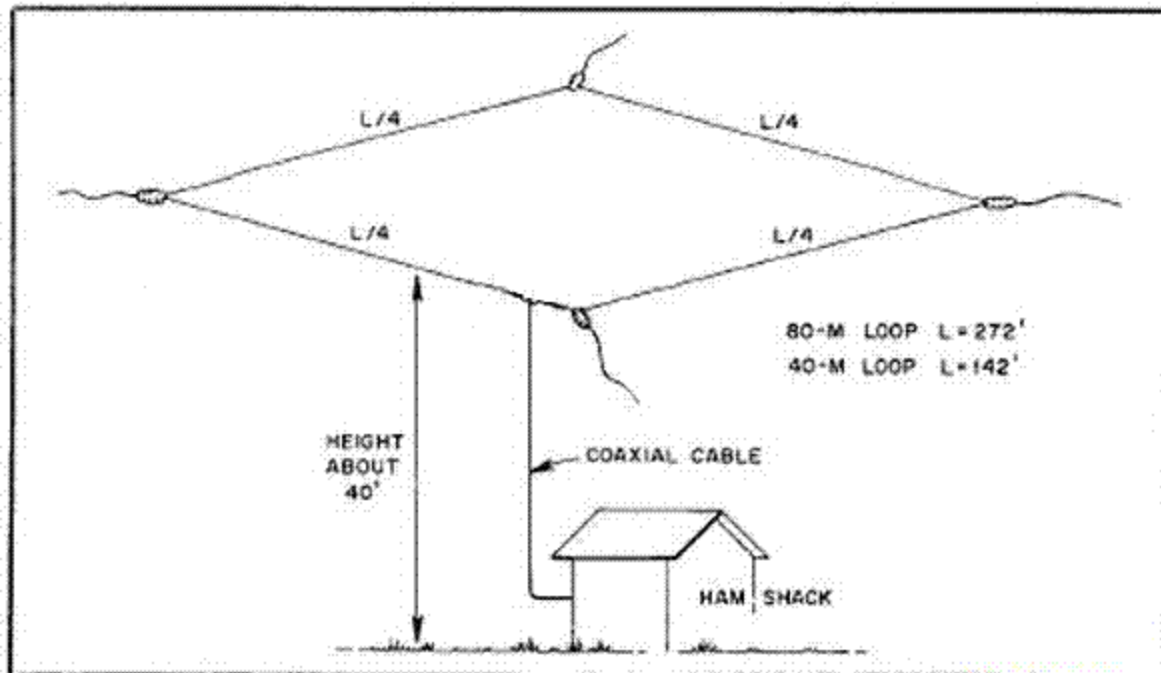


Excellent Antenna  
– low loss, low  
noise, resonant on  
multiple bands, 80  
meters with tuner

Use good 1:1 balun  
and coax noise  
filter for best  
results

Loops

# Horizontal Loop



The Loop is erected horizontal to the earth.

80-6 meters, good hi-band DX, local 80/40

Use 4:1 balun + 1:1 choke Hybrid to use on multiple bands

CB-4-1-1500 or  
CB-4-1-5000



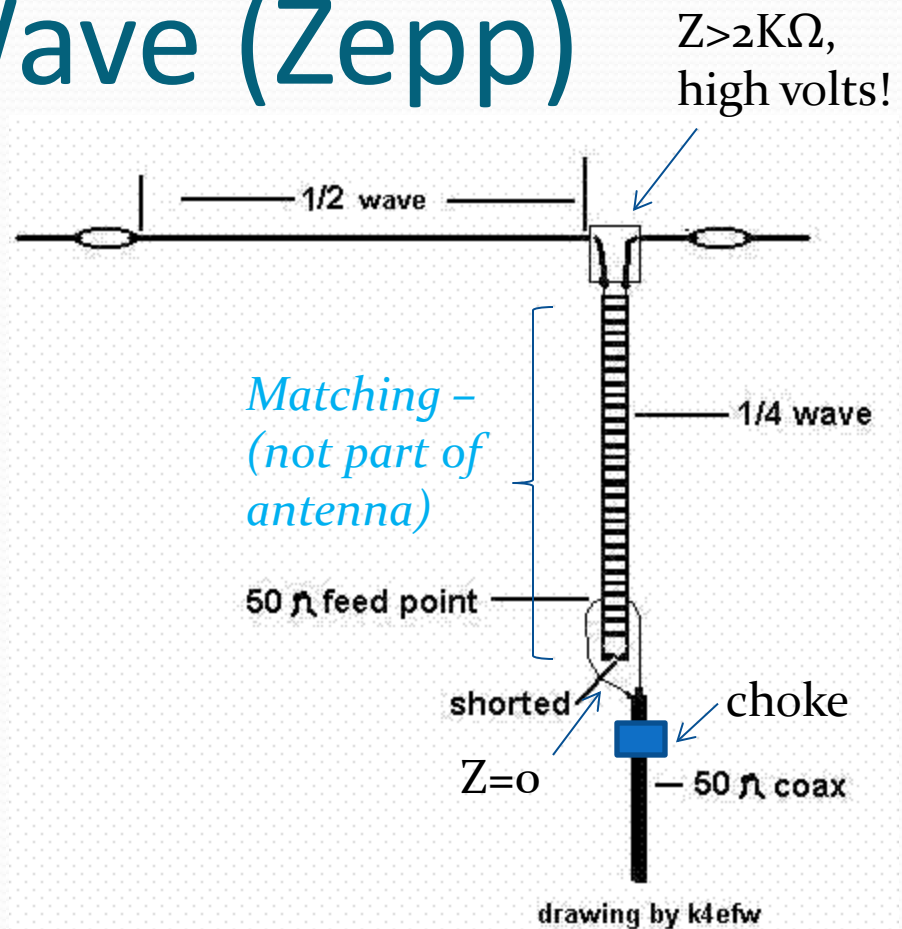
Now end feds

# End Fed Antenna Types

- End Fed Zepp (aka J-Pole)
  - End Fed Half Wave
- Non-Resonate End Fed

# End Fed Half Wave (Zepp)

- Pros
  - Low loss
- Cons
  - Ladder line match
  - Single band w/o antenna tuner
  - High and long
  - Needs feed line choke at coax feed point to prevent coax braid from radiating



examples

# EFHW Zepp Antennas



HF  
R5,R7,R9



VHF



R5, R7, R9 has matching transformer  
and a choke in same box



UHF

EFHW Wire Antenna

# End Fed Half Wave (EFHW)

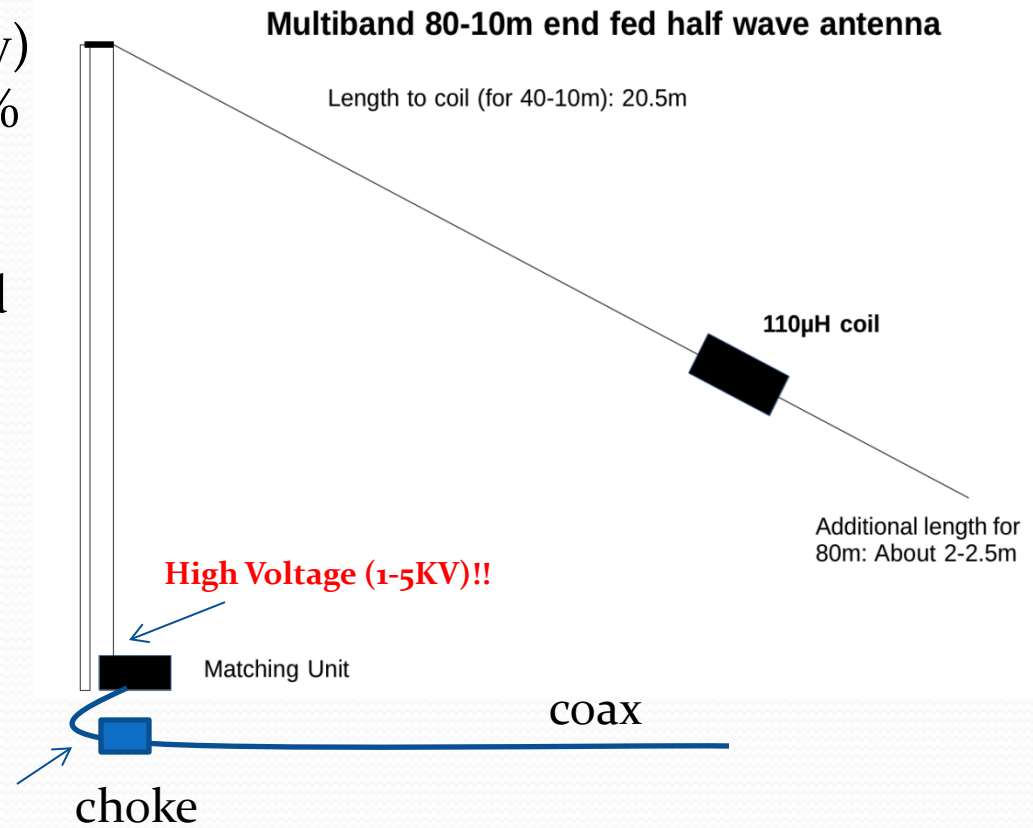
- Pros

- Multi-band – even harmonics (80-40-20-10 cw)
- Hi Z feed = < ground loss %

- Cons

- Long – use coil to shorten, needs tuner for multi-band
- Complex matching unit (49:1 to 64:1 broadband unun, hi Z = high voltage!)
- Needs feedline choke at coax feed point
- Matching unit gets “HOT” with power or non-harmonic WARC bands

18-24”



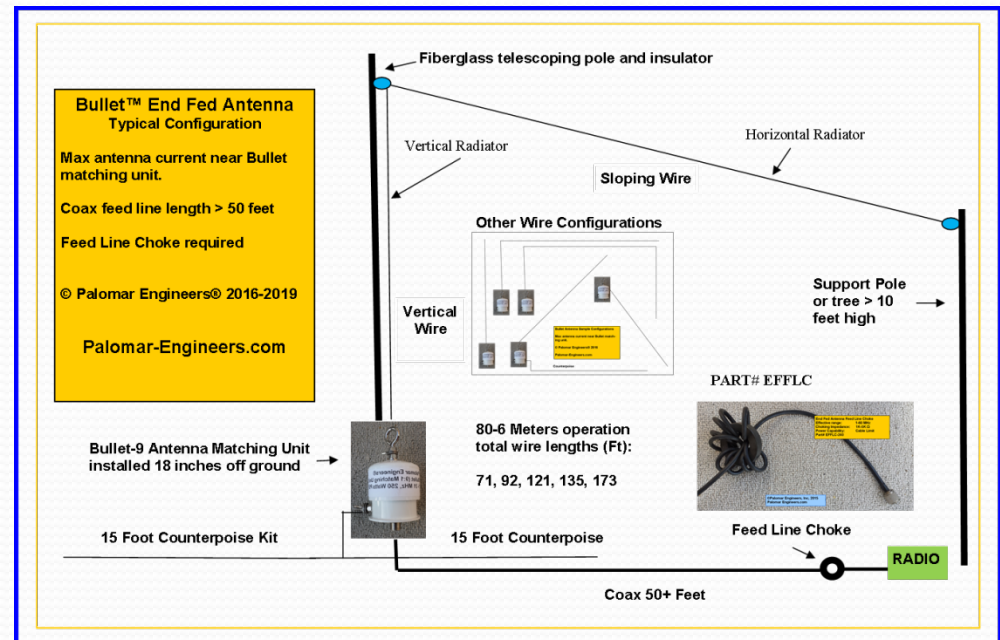
# Non-Resonant End Fed Antenna

- Pros

- Shorter length (80 Meters  $\geq 71'$ , not 130')
- Easy to deploy
- WARC Bands
- Stealth for HOA
- Lots of configurations
- Safe & simple low voltage matching

- Cons

- Coax radiates
- Counterpoises may be needed on some bands



# End Fed Antenna Choices Recap

- End Fed Zepp uses ladder line for matching to coax
- End Fed Half Wave – even harmonics, requires special high impedance matching unit, **high voltage** at feed point
- ✓ • Non-resonant end fed is shorter, uses simple matching, low voltage feed point, works many bands with shorter length, in less space and will work in many different configurations

Most Convenient End Fed is the Non-Resonant

Question: So how do you set up a non-resonant end fed?



# Secrets of Non Resonant End Fed Antennas

**Bullet™ End Fed Antenna  
Typical Configuration**

Max antenna current near Bullet matching unit.

Coax feed line length > 50 feet

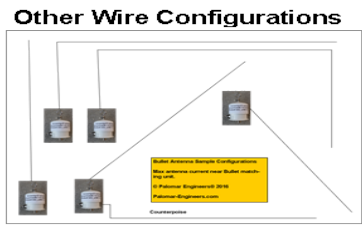
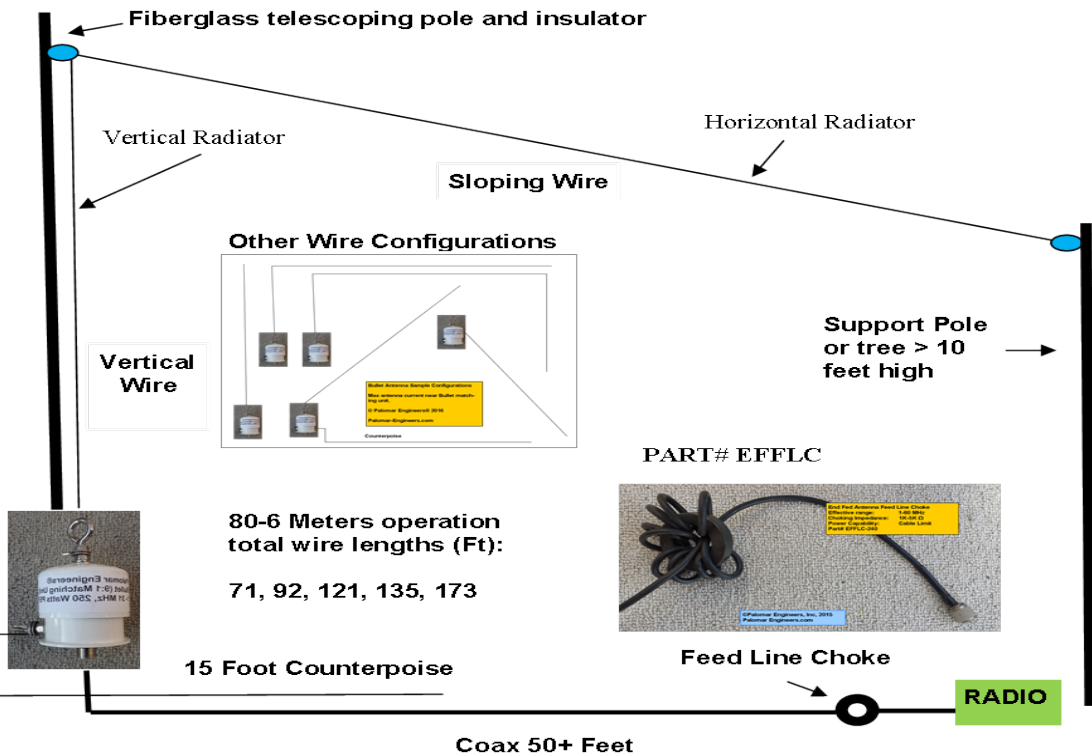
Feed Line Choke required

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Bullet-9 Antenna Matching Unit installed 18 inches off ground

15 Foot Counterpoise Kit



80-6 Meters operation  
total wire lengths (Ft):  
71, 92, 121, 135, 173

15 Foot Counterpoise

Coax 50+ Feet

RADIO

# NREF Antenna Secrets

- 1** • **How to determine the wire length to use**
  - (antenna, coax and counterpoise lengths)
- 2** • **How to match the antenna to coax cable**
  - (matching unit values and placement)
- 3** • **Choosing a configuration that fits the location**
  - (vertical, sloper, inverted L, horizontal options, zig-zag)
- 4** ■ **Choosing a feed line choke or noise filter**
  - (selection and installation)

How do these steps apply to your end fed use & location?

How long?

# How to determine the wire length

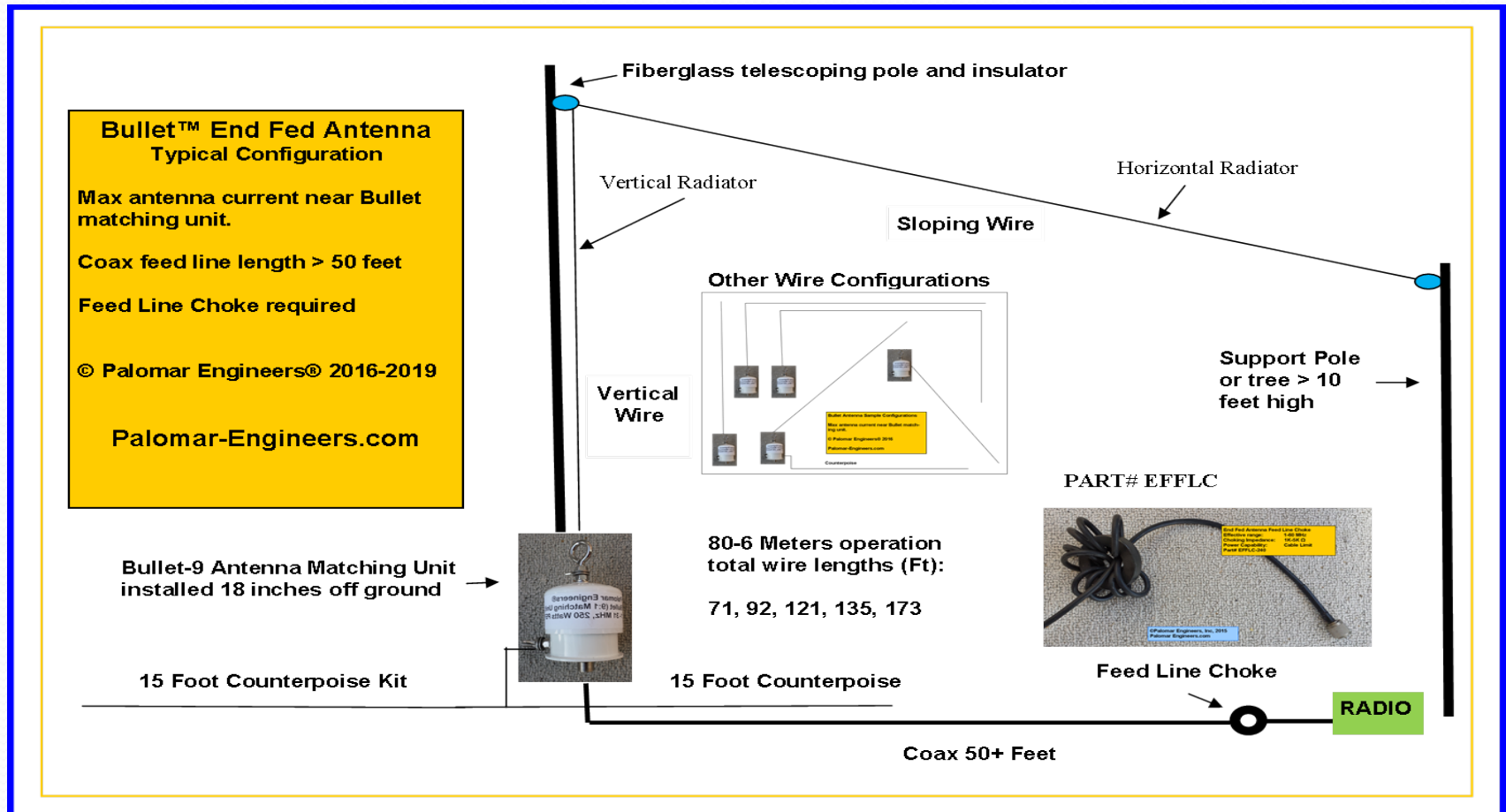
- Antenna Wire – longer for better low band operation
- Coax Cable – typically 50-75% of antenna length
- Counterpoises/radials – use non-resonant length, raised, multiple with various lengths

Suggested wire lengths for 1.8-31 MHz operation (measured from Bullet antenna wire terminal):

Bands Covered (meters)	Wire Length (feet)	Minimum Coax Length (feet)
40-30-20-15	35-43, 49-63, 70-85	35
40-30-20-17	35-45, 54-64, 67-77	35
80-40-30-20-17-15-12-10	38-44, 55, 60, 68-73	50
80-60-40-30-20-17-15-12-10	55, 68-73, 85, 92, 102, 120-125	65
160-80-40-30-20-17-15-12-10	135, 141, 155, 173, 203	100

configs

# Typical End Fed Antenna Setup



SWR Factors

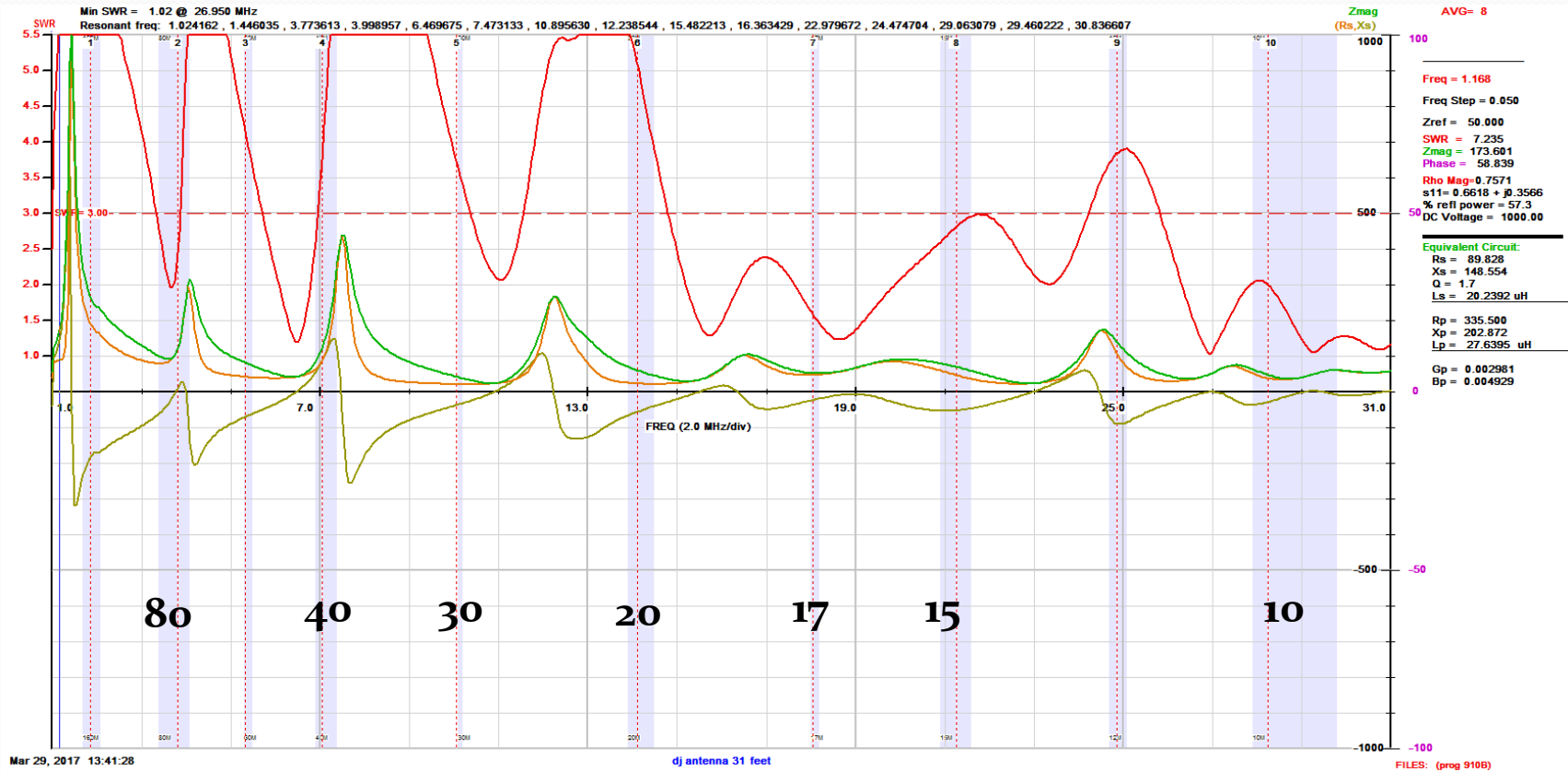
# End Fed SWR Factors

- Configuration shape (Inverted L, flat top, sloper, zig-zag)
- Length of coax feed line – use recommended values
- Feed line choke/noise filter placement – at radio end
- Top feed or bottom feed – feed sloper at top end
- Soil Conductivity – install over/near water
- Length and number of counterpoise(s) – use several with variable lengths, experiment with lengths for bands of interest (no  $\frac{1}{4}$  wavelength wires!)

Some SWR plots vs antenna length →

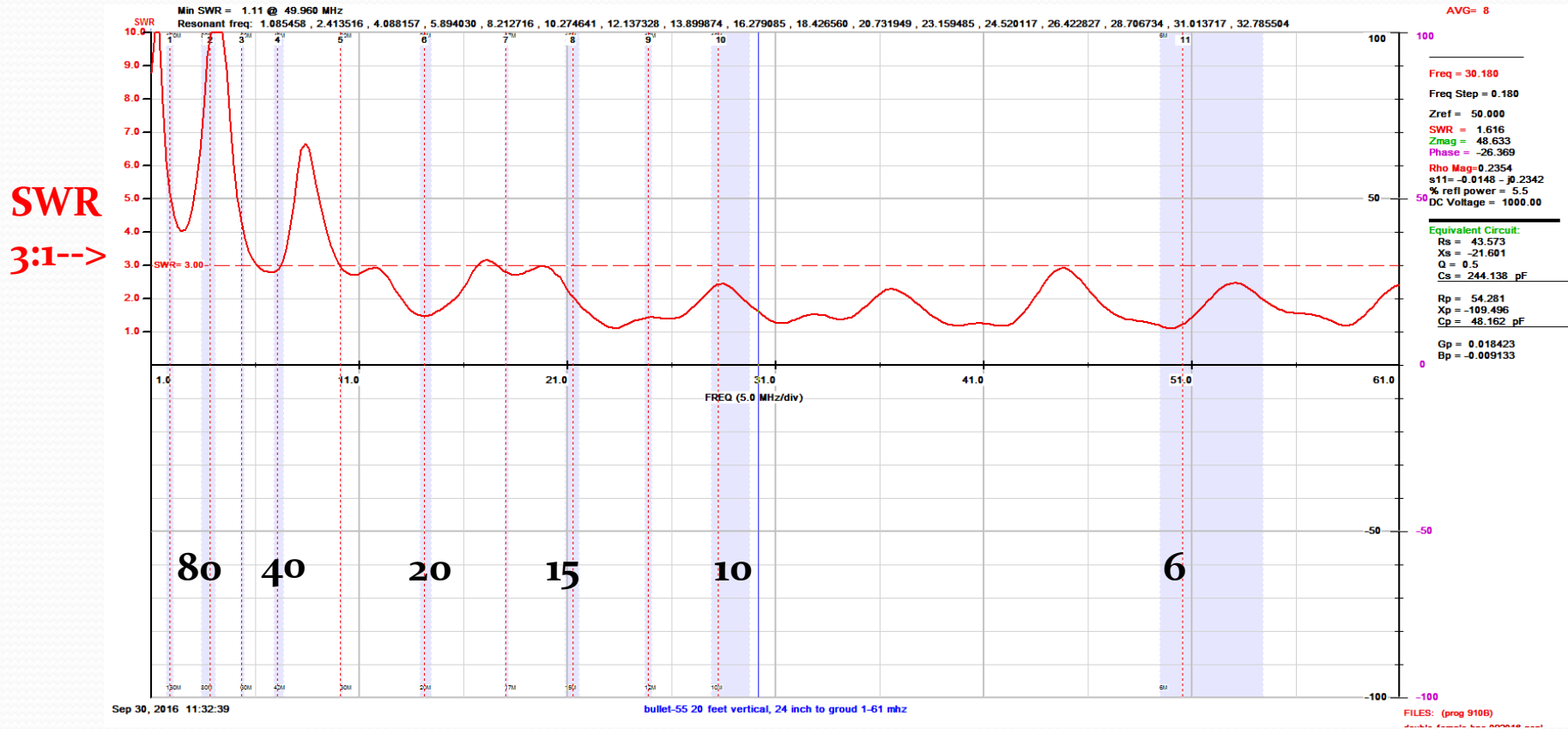
# Bullet-31'- SWR & Z (after 9:1)

SWR  
3:1-->



15' vert, 16' horizontal, two 15' counterpoises, use tuner as needed

# Bullet-55'- SWR (after 9:1)

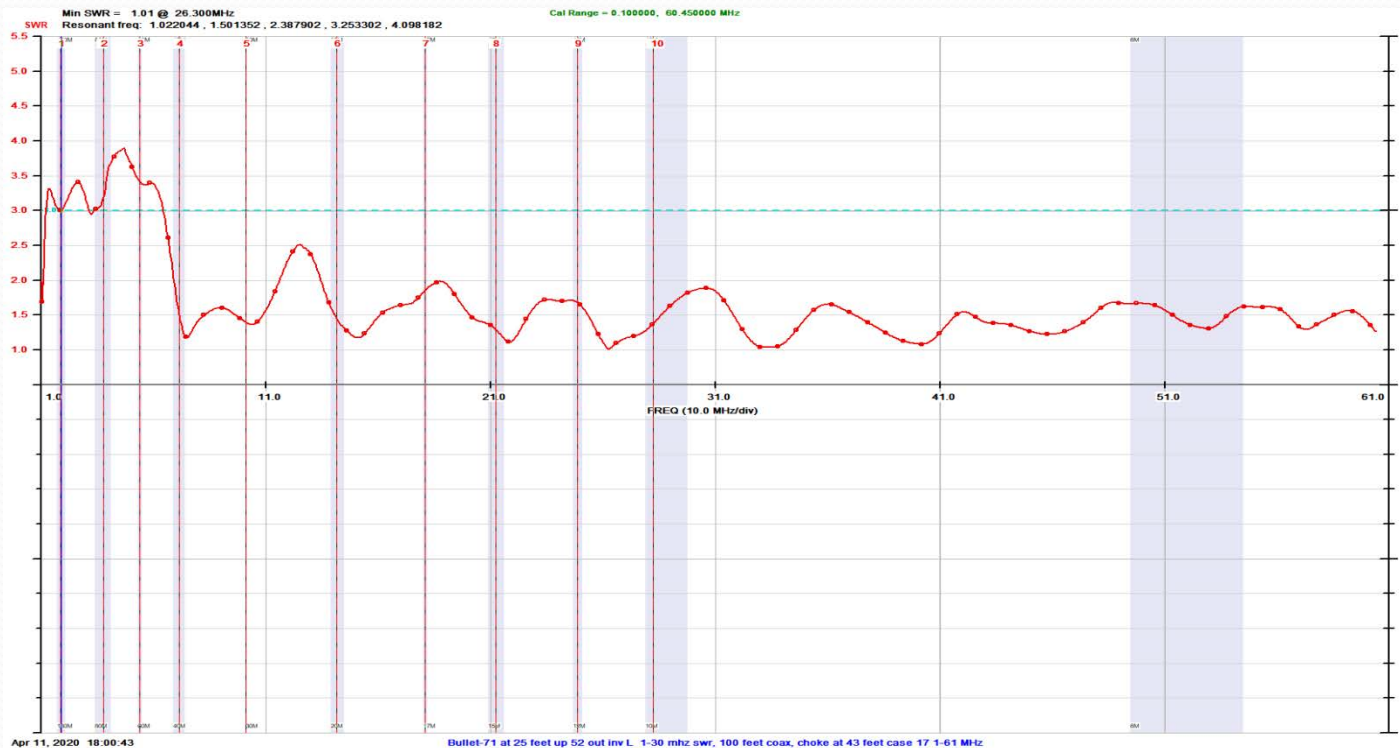


20' vertical, 35 horizontal, two 15' counterpoises, 1-61 MHz. <3:1 40-6 meters

# Bullet 71 – most popular for portable, fixed, expeditions

20-25' vertical on fiberglass pole/tree, out 52 feet to 10' or higher pole. 100 feet coax, choke at 43 foot, use tuner for 80 meters

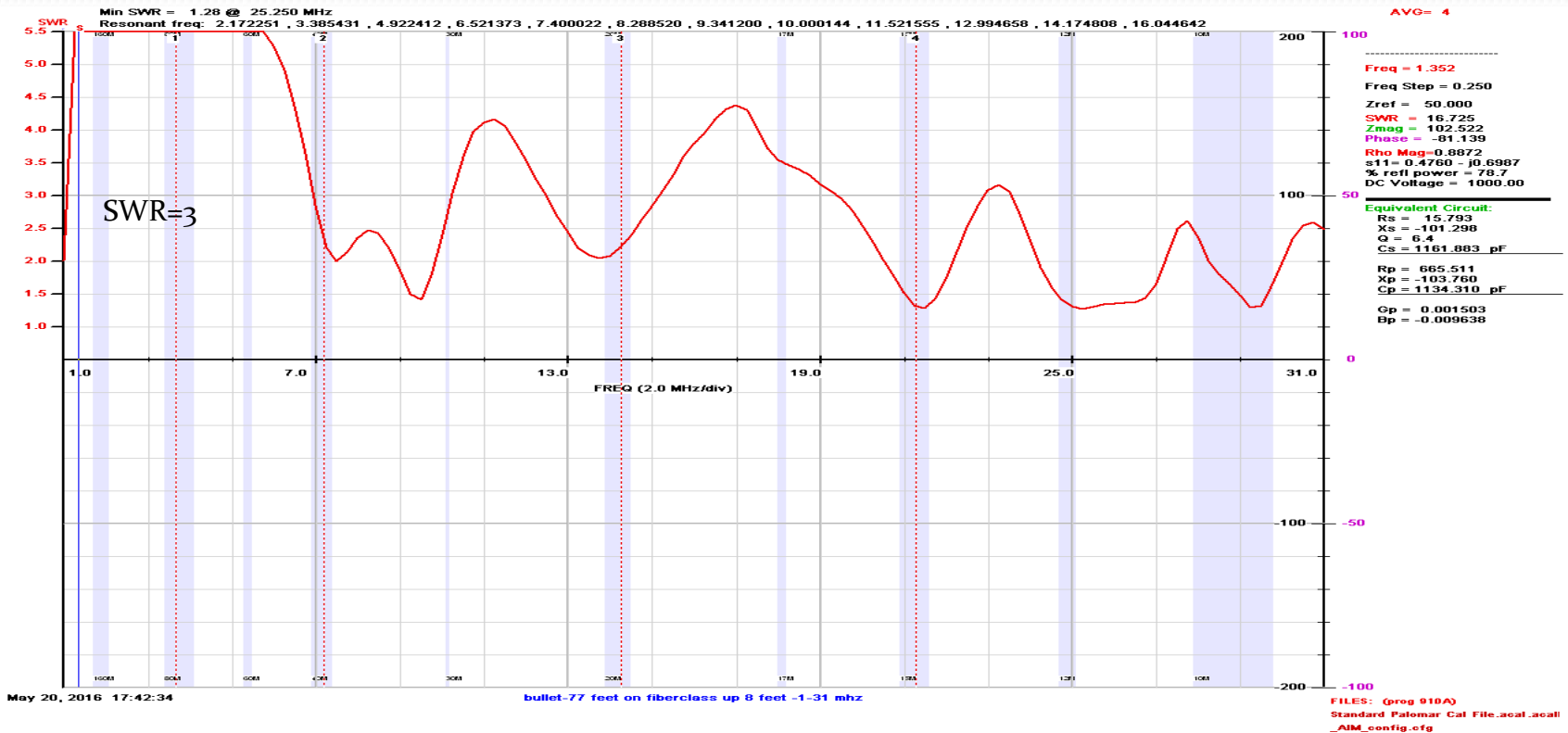
SWR = 2:1 →





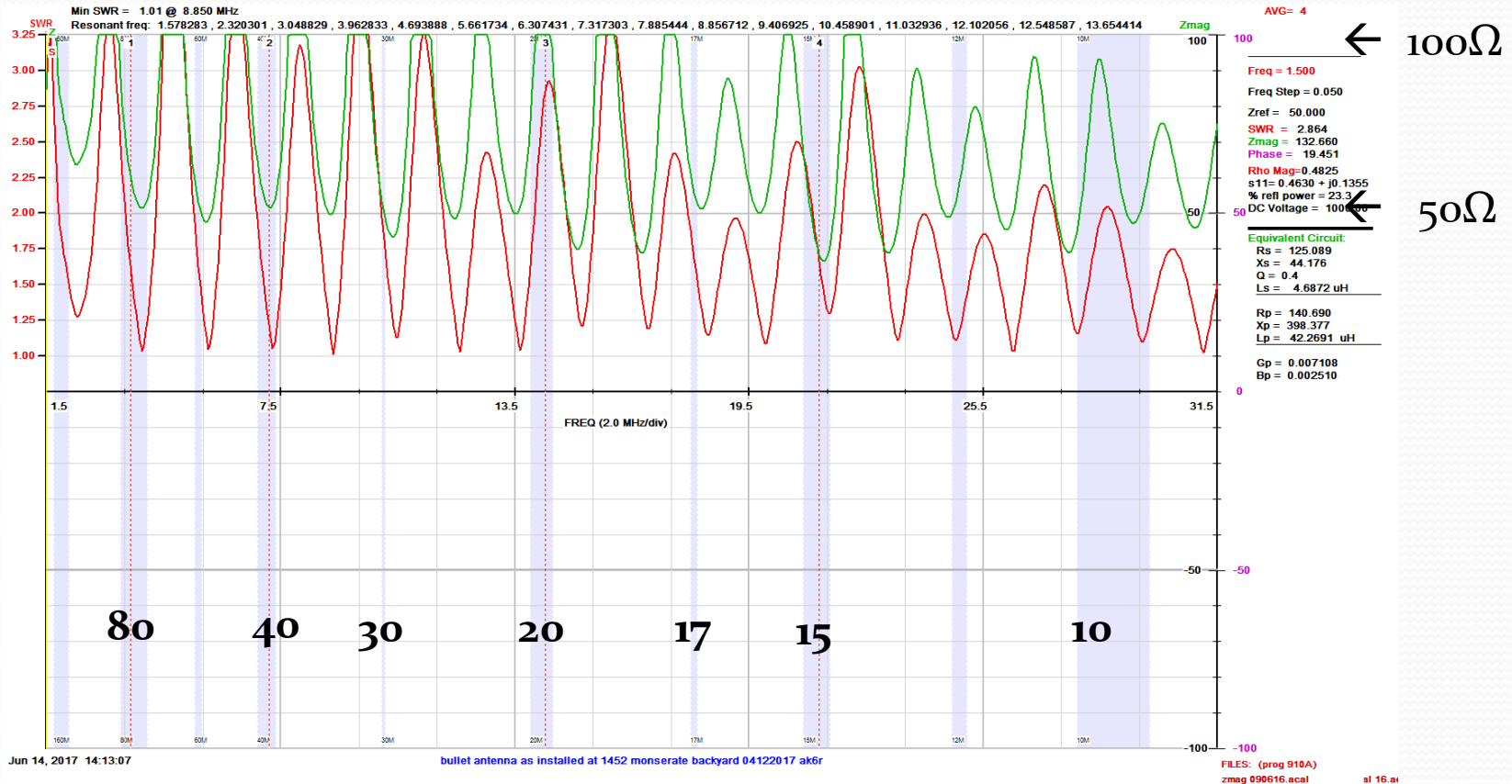
# Bullet 77 – HOA Special (40-10M)

Installed 8' on fiberglass pole out to a fence, 50 feet coax with choke at radio end of coax, two 15' counterpoises on ground. Can use house eaves also for horizontal



# Bullet-92'- SWR & Z (after 9:1)

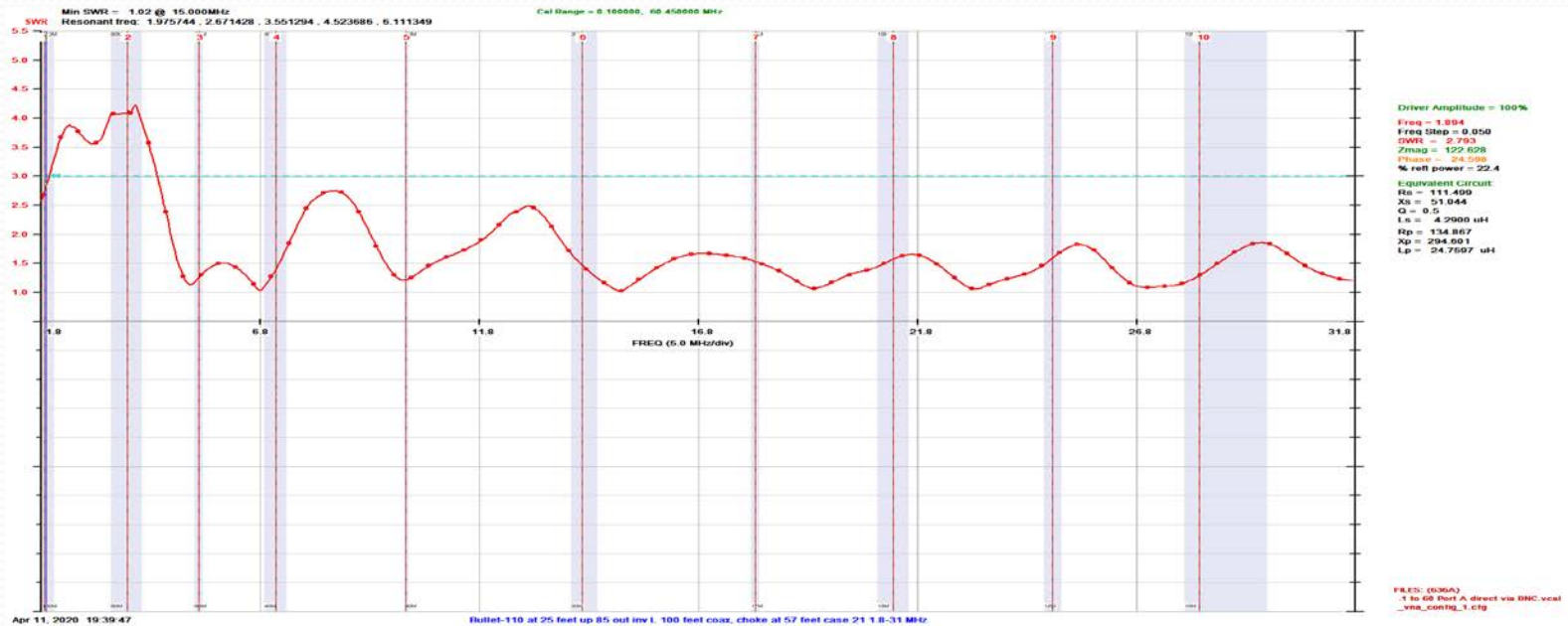
SWR  
2:1-->



20' vertical, 72' horizontal, two 15' counterpoises, 24" to nail in ground, 1-31 MHz

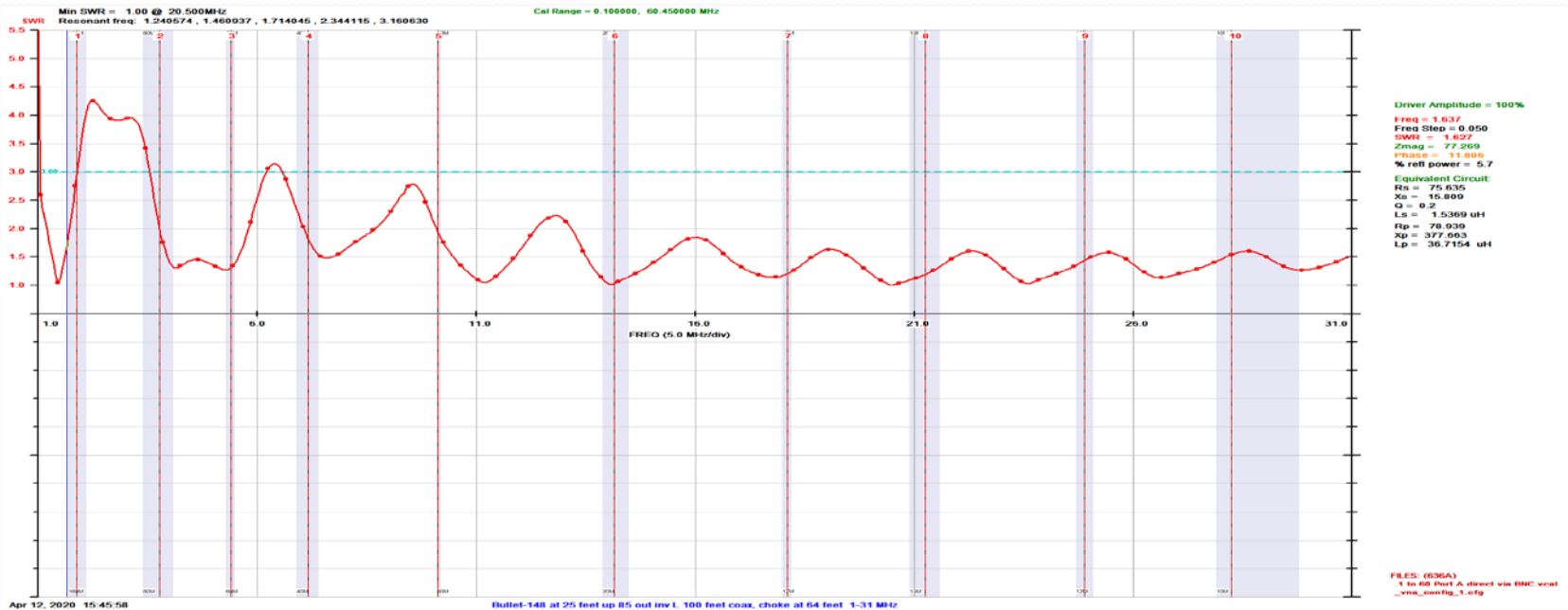
# Bullet 110

Bullet 110 Inverted L (vertical 25', horizontal 85', Bullet-9U (2 feet above ground) – 100 Feet coax, choke at 57 feet from antenna feed point only – two 15' counterpoises wires. Total antenna length = 110 + 57 = 167 feet. Feed point at  $110/167 = 65.9\%$  of total length.



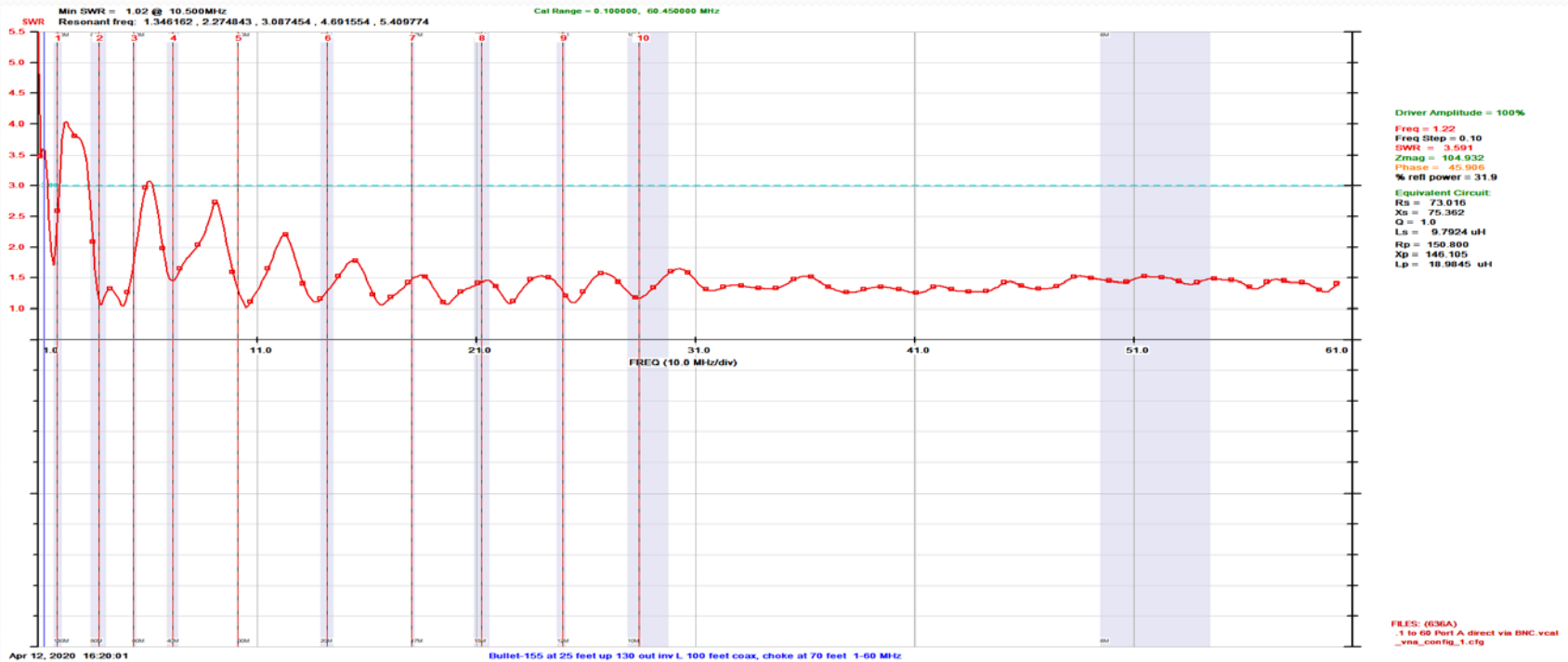
# Bullet 148 (160-6M)

Bullet 148 Inverted L (vertical 25', horizontal 123', Bullet-9U (2 feet above ground) – 100 Feet coax, choke at 64 feet from antenna feed point only – two 15' counterpoise wires. Total antenna length = 148 + 64 = 212 feet. Feed point at  $148/212 = 69.8\%$  of total length.



# Bullet 155 (160-6M)

Bullet 155 Inverted L (vertical 25', horizontal 130', Bullet-9U 2 feet above ground) – 100 Feet coax, choke at 70 feet from antenna feed point only – no counterpoises wires. Total antenna length = 155 + 70 = 225 feet. Feed point at  $155/225 = 69\%$  of total length. 160-6M



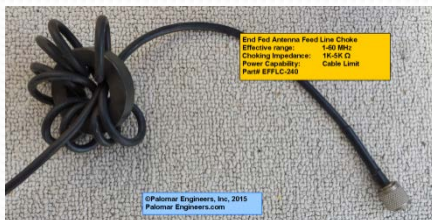
# End Fed Antenna Notes

## General Notes

For antennas over 92 feet, use 100 feet coax minimum and place choke in a position such that the total antenna wire is 70% of the effective length of the antenna. This choke position will be a good starting point for tuning your antenna on the bands you want to operate. Here are some examples of antenna wire and choke placement (units are in feet):

Antenna Wire length (70%)	Antenna feed point to choke length (30%)	Total Antenna Wire + coax length
102	44	146
110	47	157
125	54	179
135	58	193
148	63	211
155	66	221
173	74	247
203	87	290
218	93	311
268	115	383

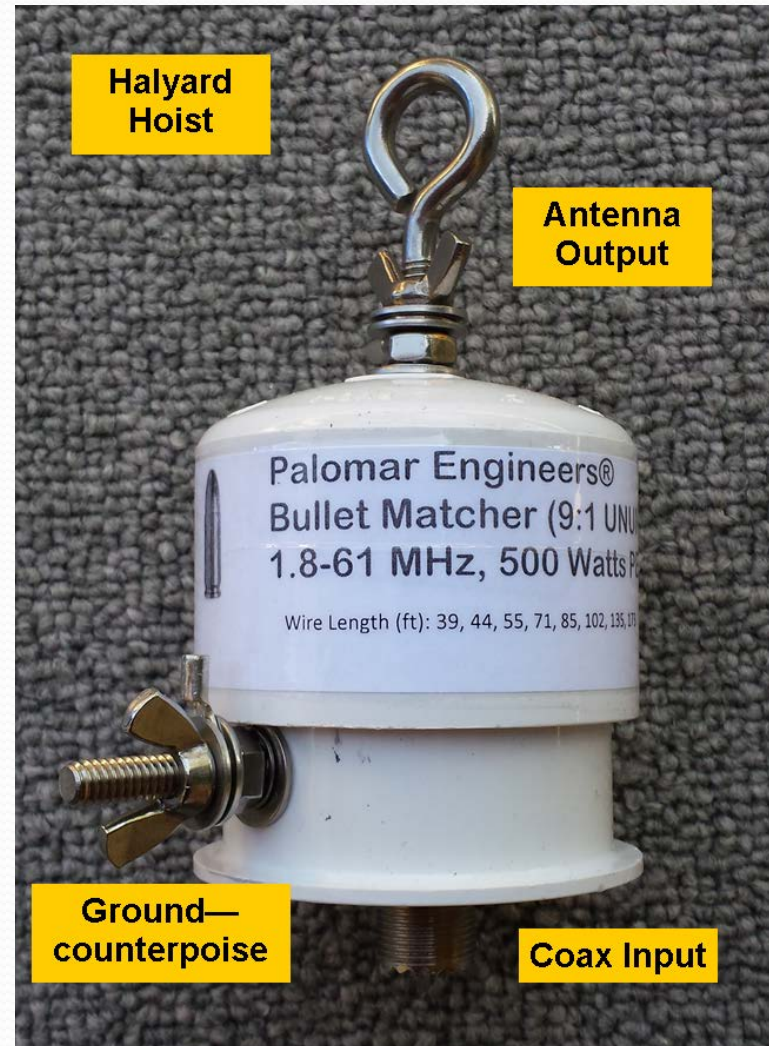
End Fed Feedline Chokes		
EFFLC (RG-8X coax not included)	Mini-Choker MC-1-500-50 (500 watts PEP)	Maxi-Choker MC-1-3000 (3KW PEP)



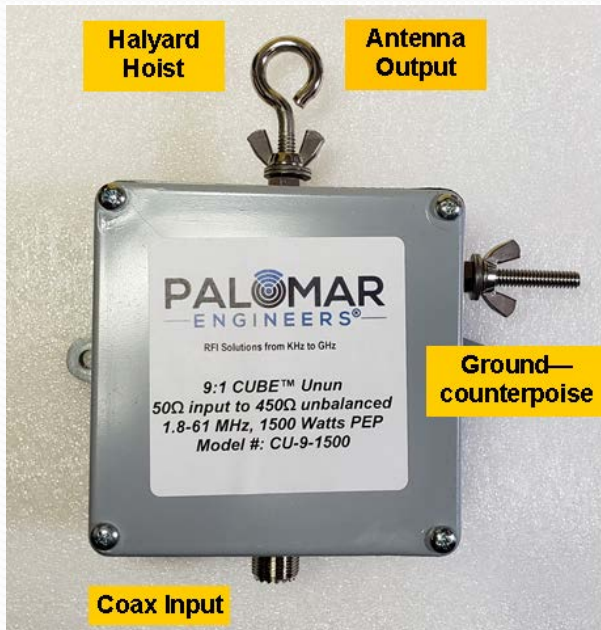
Matching

# Matching the end fed antenna to coax cable

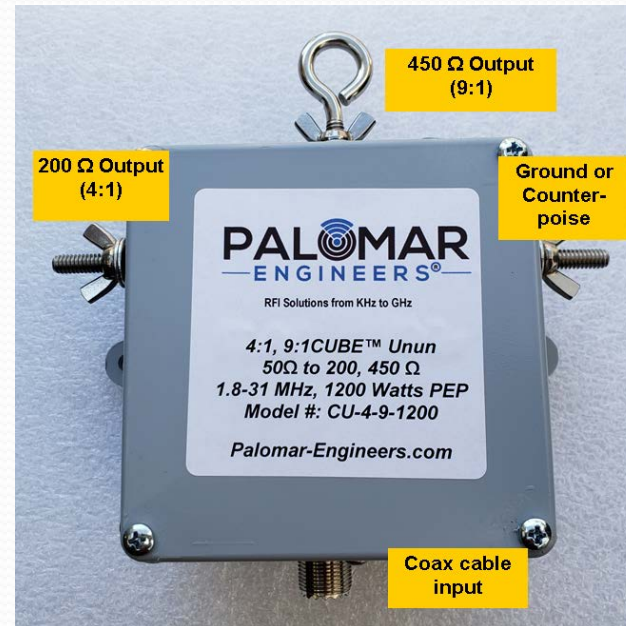
- UNUNs are your friend
  - Antenna feed point impedance:  $300\text{-}900\Omega$
  - 9:1 transformer gives  $33$  to  $100\Omega$  at coax
- Connections for coax, antenna feed point and counterpoise
- Power Ratings – PEP to match your station



# 9:1 Ununs – high power



9:1 Cube - 1500 Watts PEP  
available up to 5KW



4:1, 9:1 Cube - 1200 Watts PEP

Feedline chokes



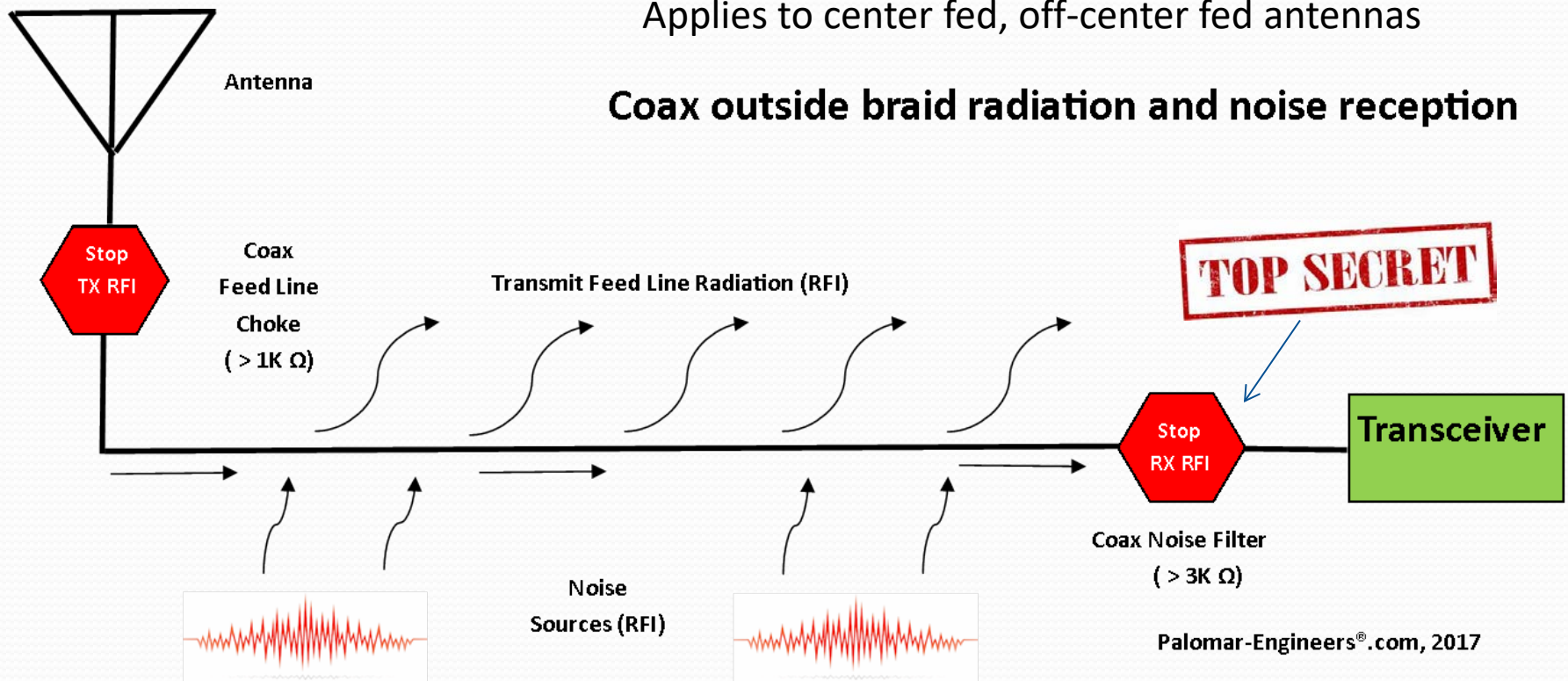
# Coax Feed Line Chokes and Noise Filters

Lower noise floor = Higher SNR = More DX!



# Typical Coax Fed Antenna System

Applies to center fed, off-center fed antennas  
**Coax outside braid radiation and noise reception**



How the end fed antenna is different

# Choosing an End Fed Coax Choke



Snap On Choke  
500-1000 $\Omega$



Ring Choke  
1K-4K $\Omega$



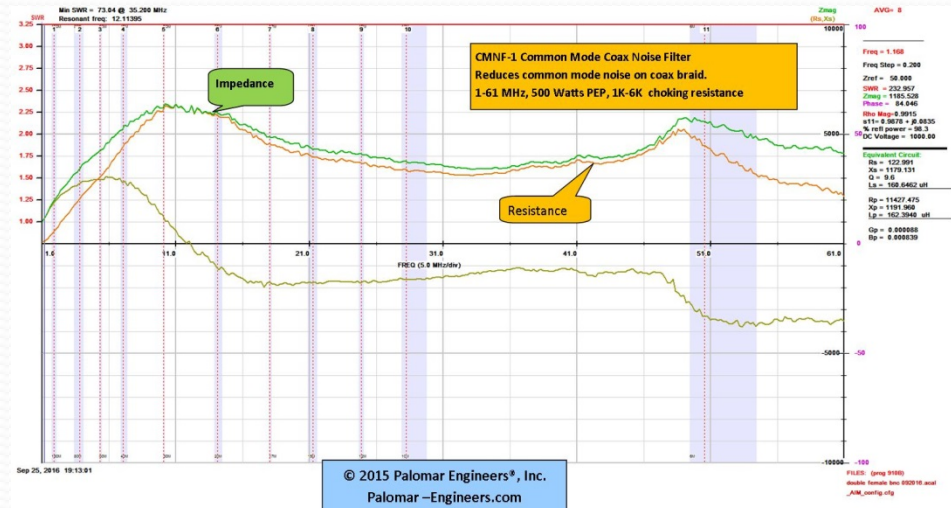
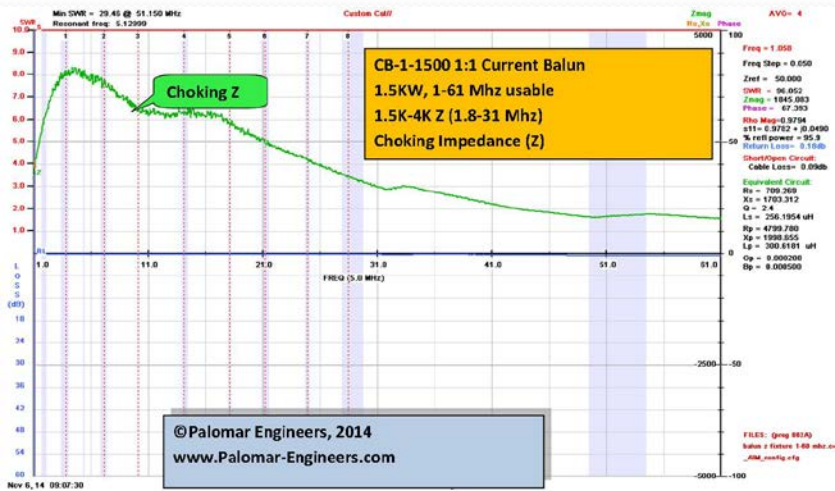
Noise Filter  
2K-10K $\Omega$

## Criteria to Consider

- Adequate Choking Impedance ( $Z$ ) > 500  $\Omega$
- Effective Frequency Range where  $Z > 500 \Omega$
- Sufficient Power Rating (PEP, Digital)
- Physical Size/Weight

First: Impedance

# Choose choking impedance > 500Ω at frequency of use



**Ferrite Ring**  
3-60 MHz >500 Ω  
500 Watts PEP  
1K-4K Ω  
1/2 pound, fragile



**Coax Noise Filter**  
.1-150 MHz >2K  
500 Watts PEP  
1K-6K Z - 50Ω  
1/2 pound, rugged



Choking R to dB attenuation

# Choking Impedance vs Attenuation

- Palomar Engineers specify RFI/EMI chokes in terms of impedance (in/out), but often the customer needs to know the attenuation to choose which product best suits the application. (1 “S” unit = 6db)

Choke Impedance	Attenuation (dB)
200	-9.5
500	-15.6
1000	-20.8
1500	-24.0
3000	-29.8
5000	-34.2
10000	-40.0

# Bullet Antenna Systems at HRO



Part# BAS-71



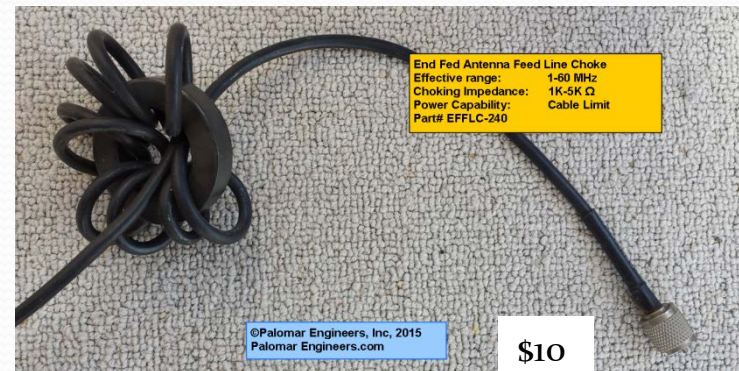
Bullet™ Antenna System with:  
71 Ft End Fed Antenna (80-6M) +  
Dual Wire Counterpoise Kit +  
End Fed Feed Line Choke

\$120

Many more options at [Palomar-Engineers.com](http://Palomar-Engineers.com)

DIY parts too!

# Bullet Antenna Parts for DIY



What about antenna RFI Issues?

# Solving End Fed Antenna RFI Problems

Stop Transmit RFI  
Reduce Receiver RFI noise



GOT WANA?





RFI Solutions from KHz to GHz

## WORKED ALL NEIGHBORS

AWARDED TO

Amateur Radio Station \_\_\_\_\_

Who has caused persistent Radio Frequency Interference (RFI)  
to neighbors adjacent to the radio station

Awarded this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_

RFI Case Endorsements:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Brehm, AK6R  
Chief Engineer

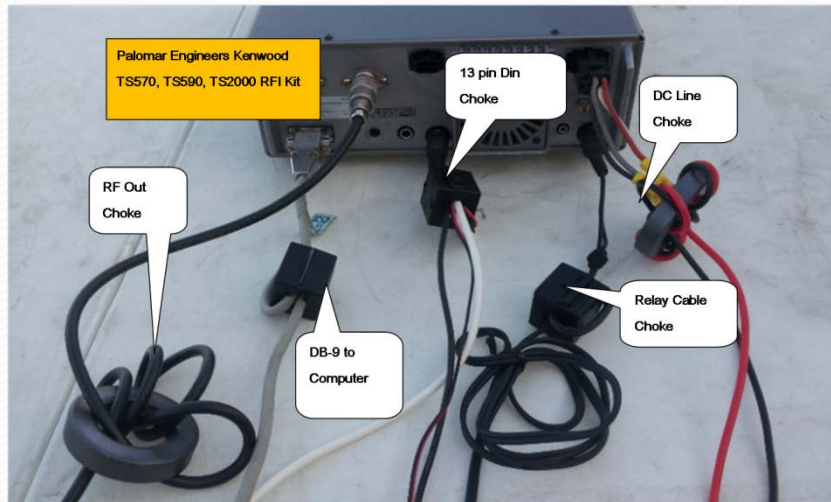
# Typical RFI Solutions

- Keep antenna (and coax) away from house wiring including AC power, Cable/Satellite feeds, telephone lines as these wires can act as receive “antennas” and overload attached electronics OR these “antennas” can transmit spurious signals (and noise) to your antenna and coax giving a high noise floor.
- Use Palomar RFI kits to solve RFI interference or noise issues in your own home or neighbor’s. See website for specific electronic device details.

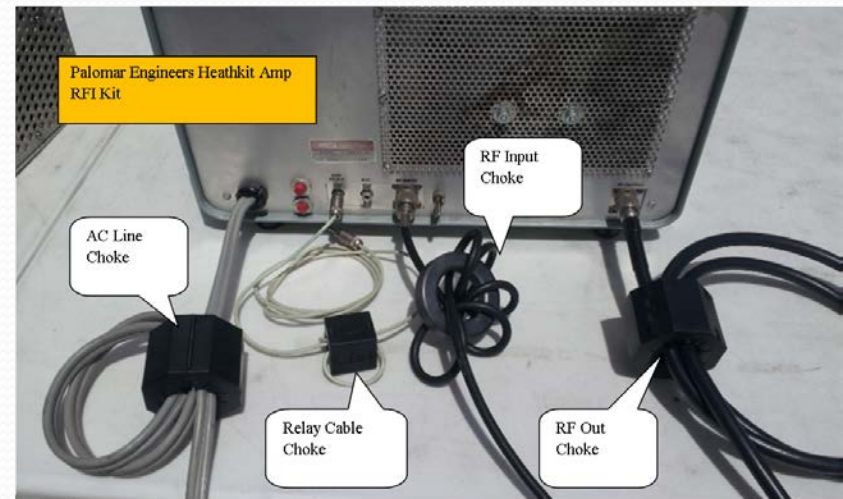
# Transceiver/Amp RFI Kits

Palomar RFI kits for all brands of transceivers and amplifiers

Transceiver RFI Kit



Linear Amplifier RFI Kit



**RULE # 1: Clean up your transmitter RFI first!**

Neighbor's RFI

# Neighborhood RFI Solutions

## MY HOME or NEIGHBOR'S HOME



ALARM SYSTEM RFI



HOME THEATER RFI



COMPUTER RFI



MISCELLANEOUS RFI



GARAGE DOOR



TELEPHONE/DSL RFI

**Recommendation:** Use RFI kits for specific problems, have neighbor purchase and install – do not make mods to neighbors equipment! MOST problems are RFI picked up by AC power/phone lines so ferrite filters work well.

QUIZ TIME

# Question #1

- What characteristics of a non-resonant end fed antenna make it superior to a half wave end fed antenna?
  - A) Non-resonant will work on even and odd harmonic frequencies
  - B) Half wave has complicated matching unit with high voltage, non-resonant has simple matching and lower feed point voltage
  - C) Non-resonant can work the WARC bands
  - D) Non-resonant antennas radiate as well as resonant antennas
  - E) All of the above
  - F) None of the above
  - G) I have no idea - I was asleep during the talk

## Question #2

Where do you place the feed line choke on a non-resonant end fed antenna?

- A) right below the matching unit to choke off all coax shield radiation
- B) at the radio end of the coax - about 30% of coax + antenna wire length
- C) in the middle of the coax length to balance the radiation
- D) between the antenna tuner and the transceiver
- E) end fed antennas don't need feed line chokes

# Question #3

**TOP SECRET**

- What is one of the best kept secrets in ham radio?
  - a) Ladder line has more loss than coax
  - b) An antenna has to be resonant in the ham bands to radiate in the ham bands
  - c) All ferrites work on all frequencies, so buy the cheapest
  - d) Coax noise filters reduce common mode noise level in your receiver so you can hear more stations
  - e) All extra class hams go to heaven

OK, 1 more!

# Bonus Prize Question #4

- Which company is your best source for End Fed Antennas and RFI solutions?



# RFI Solutions Experts



**RFI Solutions from KHz to GHz**

- Website: [www.Palomar-Engineers.com](http://www.Palomar-Engineers.com)
- Email: [Sales@Palomar-Engineers.com](mailto:Sales@Palomar-Engineers.com)
- Phone: 760-747-3343
- Bob Brehm, AK6R – Chief Engineer
- This presentation available on the website.