

Weatherproof Your Antennas

V 1.0

Weather

With all the heavy rain I have gotten a number of questions about weather proofing our stations.

We also lost one of the legs on our 80m dipole due to water ingress

Here are a few things we can talk about.

What Needs Your Attention

- ☐ **Antennas**
- ☐ **Coax**
- ☐ **Control Lines**
 - ☐ **Rotors**
 - ☐ **Antenna switches**
 - ☐ **Amps**
 - ☐ **Controllers**
 - ☐ **etc.**



Why Do I Need to Weatherproof

- ☐ **Water will get into your equipment**

- ☐ **Antennas**

- ☐ **Coax**

- ☐ **Control Lines**

- ☐ **Cause Corrosion**

- ☐ **Poor performance**

Wire

- ☐ Check you wires for damage or signs of corrosion.
- ☐ Just a small nick in the wire will cause it to break
- ☐ Check you antennas and cabling once or twice a year

Solutions to Keep the Water Out

☐ Seal Antenna

- ☐ Scotch Super 33
- ☐ Silicone tape
- ☐ Butyl tape
- ☐ Coax Seal
- ☐ Liquid Tape
- ☐ Silicone grease

☐ Seal Coax:

- ☐ Same as above.
- ☐ Marine heat shrink.
- ☐ The coax sections act as quarter-wave shorted stubs connected in parallel at the feed point.

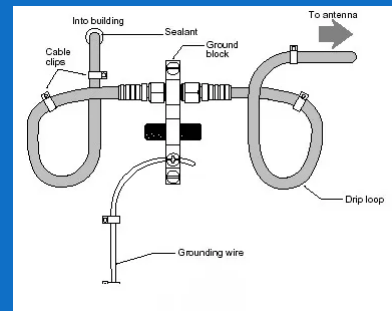
☐ Control Lines:

- ☐ Same as above.



Antenna

- ❑ Seal up you balun and traps
- ❑ Make sure the weep hole is pointed down
- ❑ Use liquid tape to cover up any lugs on your antenna
- ❑ Seal up your coax connectors with tape and silicone tape.
- ❑ Make sure your antennas have a drip loop to prevent moisture from entering the antenna and you shack.
- ❑ Check you connections on you lighting arrestors and make sure there is a drip loop to prevent moisture from getting in.



Coax

- ☐ Check your coax 1 to 2 times a year
 - ☐ Electrically with a antenna analyzer
 - ☐ Physically to make sure all connections are clean, tight and well sealed
- ☐ Check you coax and wire for damage to the outer covering to make sure water is not getting in to contaminate the coax

Summary

Heat shrink and tape are your best friends for keeping your equipment running smooth and your shack dry.



Coming Sunday Workshops

End of the month training schedule

Location Fred's Ranch weather permitting

September 20m Co-Phase POTA Antenna

November 20 m Beam Antenna for POTA Similar to Co-Phase

November Paint Can Dummy Load Kit End of End of November

December is Holiday season we will start fresh in January

January Common Mode Chokes and Isolators

Other Potential Classes

- ☐ Soldering Class
- ☐ FM Radio kit
- ☐ Coax termination again
- ☐ Fm Radio
- ☐ SDR
- ☐ Anderson power pole
- ☐ Cat6 Network Cabling
- ☐ Nano VNA
- ☐ Balun/UNUN



Questions or Comments

