

## **No Antenna = No Communications? Build a Stealth Antenna!**

Adapted by Mark Hayden, N7YLA from an article by the Neighborhood Emergency Radio Project <http://nerp.myeweb.net>

Among the leading preventable causes of inactivity among amateur radio operators are antenna restrictions. I have seen that hams who live under antenna restrictions often give up ham radio. Though many still maintain their licenses, they are mostly unprepared to provide emergency communications when an emergency occurs beyond the dubious capabilities of their HT.

From the ham's perspective, why should they prepare to communicate in an emergency if they can't enjoy ham radio in the interim? Some Homeowner's Associations may say - why don't you just set up an emergency antenna at the time of the emergency? Well, if a ham is not allowed to have an antenna in between emergencies to practice communications, he/she will most likely be unprepared to be of much help on emergency Nets, etc. To expect a ham to help in an emergency yet not have an adequate station antenna in the interim is unreasonable. Over the years that I have taught ham classes in Glendora it has been clear that a substantial number new of newly licensed Technicians never actually get into ham radio!

New hams are often surprised to learn the most important part of a radio station is the antenna. They are overly focused on transmitter power and are mistaken to think that more power equals "more range." It is not as simple as pumping more power out of the transmitter to increase range of communication. They soon learn that their "rubber duckie" HT antennas are mostly inadequate for participation in our local practice Net, much less in a real emergency! What is one solution to this dilemma? Install attic mounted high gain antennas which are synonymous with effective communications!

Generally the higher and bigger the antenna, the greater the range of communication. There are other factors which are beyond the scope of this discussion.

**This September you will have an excellent opportunity to build a high gain omni-directional two meter antenna that is designed to be placed inside your attic, thus hidden from public view. The Glendora Emergency Response Communications group will be building these antennas at their September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Contact Frank Bigelow, KG6TQV at 626-963-0152 for the price of a kit. See photo below.**

73,

Mark Hayden, N7YLA

GERC Coordinator

