

Subject: BB Quad for 10M: Field Day Results 2002

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When I first started working Field Days with the Mississauga Amateur Radio Club in the mid-1990s, I was told by a friend Tim W4TD, that 10M was a great band to work as it tended to close down at night time and allow one to get some sleep! This advice must have influenced me as I seemed to gravitate towards 10M as the band of choice for FD.

I started off with a 10M dipole and gradually progressed to purchasing a Telex Hy-gain 10M 3-element beam along with Asim VE3XAP and Neil VA3NAA.

This gave us a great boost over the dipole and helped us to plough through pile-ups and hold frequencies.

Our latest adventure on Field Day 2002 came with the acquisition of a Degen Baby Boomer Quad (BBQ) antenna. This antenna is manufactured by Degen Designs in Bramalea. Although the weather Saturday morning, June 22nd, was threatening, it cleared in time to erect the quad. The entire antenna fitted into a box 5 feet x 8" x 8". Very compact. The antenna folds open so there was very little preparation required. All tuning is factory set so there was nothing to measure or worry about. Within 30 minutes the BBQ clamps were attached to the boom and the quad was ready to erect on a telescoping mast to a height of about 24 feet. Erection of the mast was quite easy as the antenna is light. (about 20lbs)

The BBQ is constructed of aluminum tubing with fibre-glass rods. The aluminum looked very strong and the welds were nicely made...very neat and smooth. Quality is the word that comes to mind when viewing the quad up close. The coax feedline attached directly to the wire elements through a pre-supplied PL239. As the manufacturer states, there is not much wind loading so the antenna was secure although we did not have much wind during FD 2002.

Using the BBQ was easy. My ICOM-737 quickly tuned up across the band for

SSB. We had a rotor which made turning the quad a breeze but unfortunately the rotor died on us Sunday. We resorted to turning the quad by hand which was not difficult.

How did the BBQ perform? Having been used to a beam, I would say that the BBQ was equal to the 10M beam in performance. Since we did not have both antennas available for concurrent comparison, that is only my general feeling. I believe that the quad proved to be quieter than the beam with

less background noise. Certainly our scores reflect a very successful weekend. Here are some comparison numbers:

1998 - 320 -Chappell Estate, 10M open all night !! (BEAM)

2001 - 32 -Erindale Park (BEAM)

2002 - 263 -Camp Totoredaca (Mini Quad)

Remember sunspots are on the way down. In 1998 flux was 190 while in 2002 the flux numbers were 134.

What most impressed me with the BBQ was the support from the manufacturer. Guenther (VE3CVS) and Erwin Schweigl (VE3CVS SK 2002) along with Tom Zolis (VE3AWZ) dropped by both Saturday and Sunday to see how the BBQ was performing! That is real support and interest in my opinion!

My overall opinion of the BBQ? Well, I would rather use the BBQ on Field Day than the 10M beam that we had used previously. The BBQ antenna is much easier to install and erect than the beam and it was quieter to use. The performance was as good as the beam in my opinion. I would recommend that anyone needing to operate effectively on 10M consider the Degen Baby Boomer Quad. The BBQ is a high quality piece of craftsmanship and Degen Designs obviously take pride and an interest on how it performs for you. They are nice people to talk with as well! Well done guys!

73,
Earle VE3XEL
Field Day Manager,
Mississauga Amateur Radio Club (MARC)
www.marc.on.ca