

Eavesdropper SWL "Sloper" Antenna

Pre-assembled "sloper" antennas are a relatively new phenomenon on the shortwave listening scene. First on the scene was a model by Alpha Delta. It was their first shortwave listening antenna and it functioned well enough. Fortunately, however, like all innovations, however, each version of an idea that appears seems to top the one before it. Antenna Supermarket, the manufacturer of the top-rated Eavesdropper trap dipole, has just released a sloper antenna and it's no exception to the rule.

Like their trap dipole, the Eavesdropper Sloper is ruggedly constructed and fully assembled. It even comes with a package of coax sealant for making sure all connections are waterproof! And it's that kind of attention to details that makes Eavesdropper lines so exceptional. Eavesdropper antennas have earned a reputation for durability and -- we don't use the words lightly -- fine craftsmanship. The sloper continues that tradition.

It should be pointed out that slopers are an antenna orientation, not a type of antenna. It's actually a combination of several kinds of antennas: an off center-fed dipole with one element electrically loaded or shortened via a pair of coils. A parallel element is added underneath the shortened element. In short, it is a dipole with a 1/4 or a multiple of a 1/4 wave on the shortwave broadcast frequencies. A sloper is called a sloper simply because it's mounted diagonally, as opposed to horizontally.

The end result is that signals received from the low end are enhanced. And that's what makes the Eavesdropper sloper antenna such a breakthrough for serious DXers. It "specializes" in pulling in those those hard-to-hear

Tropic Band stations (90 and 120 meters) at the same time providing full coverage of the 11, 13, 16, 19, 21, 25, 31, 41, 49, 60 and 75 meter bands as well as the AM broadcast band.

Further, the antenna is directional. You simply "point" the low end in the direction of the part of the world you want to hear. Other signals come in strong, but those in the direction

that you've chosen are especially so.

The Eavesdropper Sloper is 67 feet, 6 inches long. It works best when the high end is erected about 25 feet above ground (as should most other antennas) and the low end about 8 or 9 feet above ground.

Compared to the Alpha Delta sloper (\$69.95), the Eavesdropper sloper shows higher quality construction. Actual antenna wire is used in the Eavesdropper version, house wire in the Alpha Delta unit. In the Alpha Delta version, the entire antenna is supported by a wire fed through a bare hole in the mounting bracket, which can wear through and drop the antenna. The Eavesdropper sloper has a unique pivoting polycarbonate insulator for longer life. Coils, too, are permanently soldered in place, not bolted to the wire with hardware that can loosen or corrode.

Despite all of this, the Eavesdropper sloper is twenty dollars less than the Alpha Delta sloper, retailing at \$49.95. The Eavesdropper Sloper is available from most *Monitoring Times* advertisers.

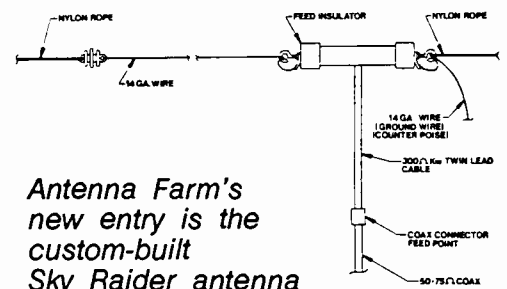
The Sky Raider Antenna

The Sky Raider is a new entry onto the shortwave listening scene. Custom-built by the Antenna Farm, it's based on the G5RV design -- developed by British ham Louis Varney (G5RV).

The Sky Raider is designed for the shortwave listener or ham living on a small lot. It's only 51 feet long and unlike other short multiband antennas on the market, it uses its entire length on all frequencies. There are no traps or other electrical devices to simulate antenna length.

What makes the Sky Raider especially appropriate during these days of increased sunspot numbers (and enhanced reception) is that it provides gain at frequencies above 12 MHz. As many listeners have probably noticed, more and more stations are moving into these frequency ranges in recent months. In addition, the *de facto* opening of the 13 MHz band has made these upper reaches more attractive to listeners.

The Sky Raider can be erected either horizontally or as a sloper and covers all frequencies from the AM broadcast band to 10 meters. It's fully assembled and ready to connect to your coax. The Sky Raider is for \$39.95 from many *Monitoring Times* advertisers.



Antenna Farm's new entry is the custom-built Sky Raider antenna

Corrections

In the February issue we reviewed Robert Kelty's *Government Radio Systems - California* edition; we incorrectly listed the price as \$12. Instead, the price is \$25 postpaid, available from Mobile Radio Resources, 2661 Carol Drive, San Jose, CA 95125. Please note this correction if you plan to order.

Shortwave Directory Price Change

In our January issue we reviewed Bob Grove's new *Shortwave Directory*, indicating that its page count exceeded 200. It certainly does; in fact, it exceeds 500! The incorporation of an exhaustive radioteletype section with some 14,000 listings resulted in doubling the size of the book.

The correct price of the 1988 (4th edition) of the *Shortwave Directory* is \$17.95 plus \$2 shipping.