



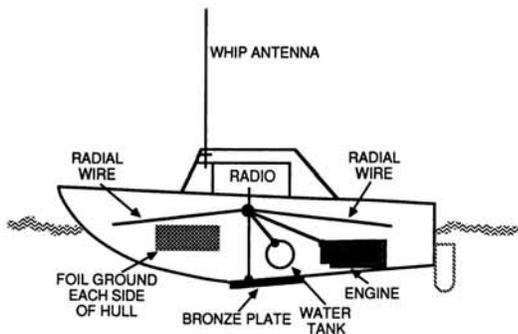
We have been blessed with an early spring, so hopefully preparation for summer has started earlier too.

If you have plans to get a ham license this year, now is time to buckle down and get it done. There is no hope of studying while the sun is out.

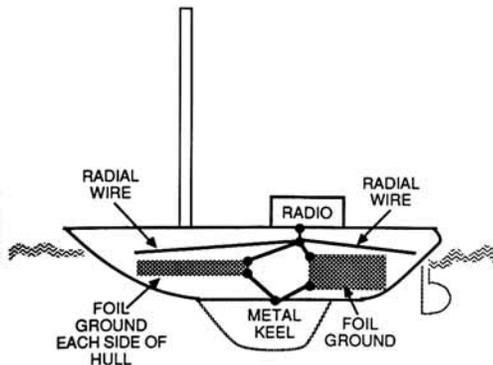
If you are planning to go beyond the Technician class license, you can get a head start on things by getting the General class and taking advantage of the privileges available on the High Frequency (HF) bands.

If you are having any boat work done this spring, consider adding the grounding to help the antenna system do its job. Marine antennas are always a compromise between efficiency and size. And of course sunlight, salt water, high temperature and humidity are always trying to eat up antenna and coax cable components.

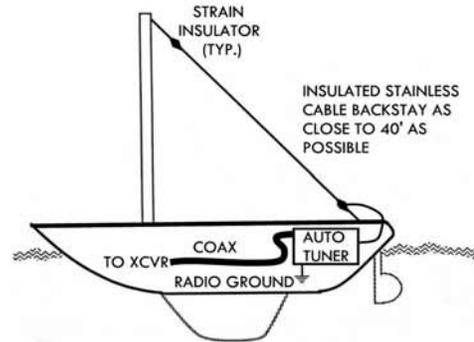
For a powerboat, the addition of some foil attached to the inside of the hull and plenty of bonding to other metal items is necessary.



The sailboat has similar bonding requirements.



One major advantage a sailboat has is the long backstay, which has been used as the driven element for years. Special high-strength insulators are added that electrically insulate the cable from the mast and other grounds in the boat. Most modern radios have an automatic antenna tuner available that is controlled from the radio console.



The best way to get a handle on what it takes to make your boat HF ready is to attend our upcoming event:

Spring W7SYC Amateur Radio Rendezvous, April 9-11, at the Port Madison Outstation.

There will be the normal "open boat" time scheduled on Saturday afternoon. During that session you are welcome – no, encouraged – to visit those boats in attendance that have amateur radios onboard. You can see exactly how things are hooked up, how the different grounding techniques work and hear why operating HF from "up north" or here at home is great fun. We plan to visit at least one local "home" station on Bainbridge Island.

The traditional Greenbox celebration will take place on Saturday afternoon about 5:00 p.m., followed by an evening potluck dinner.

Sign up at the Mainstation Front Desk for this "non event – event." Non-club members are invited, but they may not moor at Port Madison. ☺

W7SYC – For more information about the Seattle Yacht Club Amateur Radio Committee or getting an amateur radio license, contact Dan Withers, dwithers@rodaxwireless.com or call (206) 947-2303.



Spring W7SYC Amateur Radio Rendezvous April 9-11

Port Madison Outstation

There will be the normal boat open house, installation assistance, technical presentations and a local ham shack visit.

An official Greenbox will be on Saturday evening followed by a potluck dinner.

Sign-up at the Front Desk (206) 325-1000.

This is a "non-event – event."

Questions: Contact Dan Withers, WM7W at (206) 947-2303

