

pound anchors through the tilt part to the base part. With the tilt base rock-solid, we were now ready for the install.

Raising the Dream

In late July, I built the boom and carried it out to the tower site. The first weekend of August, I built out the beam at the tower site, as the first element is 39 feet long. I bolted my 2-meter/70-centimeter omni to my 25-foot aluminum mast, inserted it through the thrust bearing and into the rotor, then put a pulley on the tower lattice, hoisted the beam to about 7 feet, then bolted that into place. I had made my own standoff for the coaxial cables and rotor cable. I bolted that to the rotor plate of the RT Razor and supported the end of that with a piece of Dacron so it won't bend under coax pressure.

I attached the battery jumper to my winch control, hit the button, and it went up flawlessly. I guyed it off, and



Eddie and Deb celebrated the completion of the tower's base by marking their names in the still-wet cement — Eddie's dogs Ponch and Diesel got special billing as well.

I now have my dream station.

My omni is at 90 feet high, and my log-periodic beam is at 54 feet high. I finally have the shack I've been dreaming of for nearly 22 years.

Fuel Your Attitude

The worst thing a person with any dis-

ability can do is get caught up in the sad, depressed end of it because it magnifies one's disability tenfold. If I told you I didn't get sad, I'd be lying, but as soon as that feeling comes about, I switch it off as fast as I can. A person's attitude is fueled by their mind. It's easy to get caught up in feeling sorry for yourself, but with hard work and positive thinking, it can change in so many ways. I am very proud of what my own two hands — and blood, sweat, and tears — have built!

Photos by the author.

Eddie Barra, AE2B, has been licensed for 22 years and has a passion for SSB voice. He loves chasing DX and having good old-fashioned ragchews. He is interested in 2-meter/70-centimeter FM and VHF/UHF tropo ducting as well. For now, he's in Gray, Georgia, but he will be relocating just north of Tampa this summer. You can reach Eddie at my86ta24k@aol.com.



New Products

Low Band Preamp from Array Solutions

The RAM-34 is a preamplifier system designed primarily for 160 through 40 meters. It has inputs for four receive antennas and internal three-pole band-pass filters for 160, 80, and 40 meters. In addition to the preamplifier, it has a step attenuator that, together with the amplifier stage, provides gains from -20 dB to +20 dB in 5 dB steps. This allows equalizing the signal levels among the antenna inputs. Gain settings are memorized for each antenna on each band. Different types of receive antennas have different

signal levels, and the gain memories eliminate the need to adjust the receiver or preamplifier when switching among the antennas. The amplifier stage uses a 1 W RF transistor and is designed to handle strong input signals without overloading or clipping. Connecting the PTT input is optional. When PTT is active, the RAM-34 will disconnect all antennas while transmitting. The RAM-34 may be remotely controlled by software using the Shacklan system. Price \$459. For more information, visit www.array-solutions.com.

Feedback

■ In the article “A Year of National Parks on the Air” by Sean Kutzko, KX9X, published in the March 2017 issue of *QST*, on page 78 it was stated that the Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society hosted the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend. This is not the case. The International Lighthouse and Lightship

Weekend is hosted exclusively by the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend group, www.illw.net.

■ In the article, “A Tri-Band Antenna without Radials for 2 Meters, 1.25 Meters, and 70 Centimeters,” by Edison Fong, WB6IQN and Tessa Fong, KJ6QXM, published in the March 2017 issue of *QST*, in Figure 7 on page 38, an arrow should point from the notation “RG-174A coaxial cable” to the gray coaxial cable inside the lower helix, and a connection should be added between the shield of the coax and the ground side of the SO-239 connector. See the revised drawing on the *QST* Feedback page at www.arrl.org/feedback.

■ In the article, “A Panadapter for your Transceiver or Receiver” by Jim Kocsis, WA9PYH, published in the February 2017 issue of *QST*, the URL on page 35 (in the last paragraph of the third column) should be hdsdr.de/RTLSDR_with_HSDR.pdf.

