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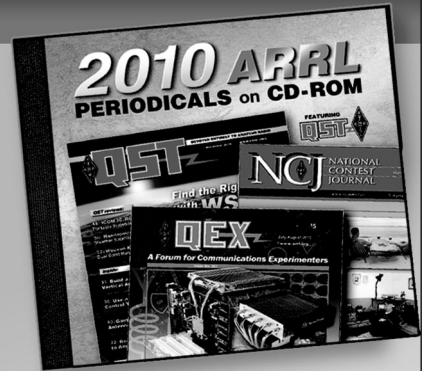
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Title: Anchoring Coaxial Feed Line

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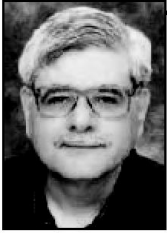
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HINTS & KINKS

ANCHORING COAXIAL FEED LINE

◇ Here's the way I anchored the coaxial feedline from my window antenna to my house. It is free to swing in the wind with the antenna, without becoming crimped or kinked (see Figure 1). I use 1/4 inch nylon rope and a variation of the knot used to lace telephone cables. For RG-8X coax, I start with a 5 foot piece of rope in which I tie simple overhand knots on each end.¹

Next, I melt the end with a lighted match. When the melting nylon forms a ball, I put the fire out and press the melted ball against the flat side of a screwdriver blade or something similar, to blunt the end of the rope with the now hardening ball. If you do this just right you will have a hard glob on the end that is larger than the diameter of the rope and it will not pull through a simple overhand knot tied at that end of the rope.

Then measure 40 inches from one end of the rope and fold the rope back on itself. Place this loop on and parallel to the coax at the point where you want to secure it. Starting 5 inches from the end of the loop (see Figure 2), wind the longest loose end of the rope around this loop and the coax in close tight turns, toward the loop (see Figure 3). When you run out of rope, you should have about 3.5 inches of wrapping, ending about 1 inch away from the loop end (see Figure 4).

Now pull the knot at the end of the wrap through the 1 inch loop and while holding the wrapped coax in one hand, pull the other end of the rope with your other hand, so that it slips under the wrapped turns and closes the loop around the knot on the other end (see Figure 5). A little practice may be necessary here to get everything tight and neat.

After tying the rope to the screw eye with a couple of half hitches, the remaining rope is wrapped around the screw eye to make it neat and keep it from dangling in the wind. *All photos by the author: — 73, Lyle H. Nelson, AB0DZ, 1450 201st Ave NW, New London, MN 56273, lylenel@tds.net*



Figure 1 — RG-8X coax anchored to the author's house.

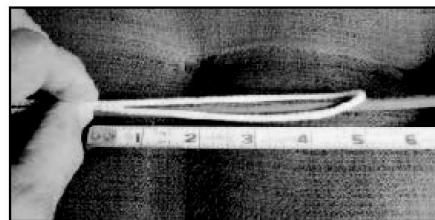


Figure 2 — First, form a 5 inch loop.



Figure 3 — Wind the end of the rope around the 5 inch loop in tight turns.



Figure 4 — When done, you will have about 3.5 inches of rope wrapped around the coax.



Figure 5 — Finally, pass the knot through the remaining loop and pull the end of the rope to close the loop below the knot.

¹R. Collins, WX3A, "The Knots of Ham Radio," *QST*, Jun 2006, pp 57-58.