

MARROWSTONE WIRELESS

Hybrid Networks

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January 2, 2024 - A Tale of Two Towers

Nine plus years ago, Dick Illman and I erected a small triangular-based 20 foot metal tower on Whidbey Island with one radio AP (Access Point) aimed at Nordland. See top photo.

By the year 2021 we were sharing that one radio AP's bandwidth among 60-70 homes on the East side of Marrowstone. Also, the power for that small tower was subject to local power outages on Whidbey Island. These factors of constant power and need for greater bandwidth caused us to expand to a bigger tower with more radios.

By the end of 2021 we had partnered with WhidbeyTel to use a spot on the top of their 275 foot tower on the highest ridge of Whidbey Island and to be fed by their well-backed up 48VDC power system so, no more power outage issues on Whidbey Island to affect us!

We designed a new array of 3 more powerful radio APs to serve the East Side of Marrowstone. This array was installed at an elevation about 750 feet above sea level on the WhidbeyTel tower focused on Marrowstone but, with reach from Port Townsend to Port Ludlow. The second photo shows the top of the WhidbeyTel tower before we mounted the new array. Last night during the evening max bandwidth consumption period I measured the bandwidth available from this new system at a client's home and found that **we are delivering 110 mbps download and 34 mbps upload**. More than the PUD fiber prediction they have been advertising (now delayed).

So, what happened to our small triangular-based tower from 2015? We removed it from Whidbey Island and are using it with a 10 foot extension to replace and upgrade our Nordland radio presence. The tower is up on E. Marrowstone Road with radios in place. We are tuning the new equipment in the new shed to be mounted at the foot of the tower. This new shed also contains our new automatic battery 4 day backup system for the tower radio APs. So, back to Two Towers once more. Happy New Year!

Peace, David

David G. Brader, President, MACaid, Inc. dba Marrowstone Wireless

