

## **EmComm Feature - By Krissy KI7GJJ**

Okay, I will admit up front that this month's feature is *loosely* related to EmComm, but it is so cool I couldn't resist. So please bare with me.

During the month of April, I was camping at Catalina State Park in the Tucson area. We had a couple warm days, and our trailer Air Conditioner is broken. So, we decided to escape the heat and head to the Titan Missile Museum (<https://titanmissilemuseum.org/>). If you have not visited the museum, then you really must go. Just be aware that the tour requires that you be able to descend and ascend 55 steps; although there are displays in the visitor center and some outdoor displays that are more accessible.

For me, the most intriguing item in the museum was discone antenna dating back to 1963.

I have never heard of this type of antenna, and it wasn't in my antenna reference books! A discone is a no gain, omnidirectional, broadband antenna. The SWR of this antenna is typically 2:1 over the full range of 6Mhz to 30Mhz. Before you get too excited and start looking at putting one up in your shack, be aware that this particular discone antenna has a large footprint! It was built by the Collins Radio Company and is over 80 feet tall.

The antenna is exciting to see. But what makes it especially sweet is that as an amateur radio operator, you can use the antenna free of charge while the museum is open! There is a box next to a picnic table where you can attach your transceiver via a PL259 connector. I understand the antenna still works very well, but on windy days it may be electrically noisy due to years of corrosion in all the joints. We need to thank the Green Valley Amateur Radio Club who sponsors and maintains the coax lead line ([www.gvarc.us](http://www.gvarc.us)).

For more information about the Titan Missile Museum discone antenna (and better pictures than the one I took) check out this link: <https://titanmissilemuseum.org/museum/ham-radio-operators/>

I'm thinking that after the summer heat, there should be a field trip to the Titan Missile Museum to experience this fascinating antenna (and of course tour the museum).

