

Bill Johnston

I did it and I'm glad I did!

I did it and I'm glad I did! Unscrewed the cable from the television. Gathered all of the cable company's property – put it in a shopping bag and marched into the cable company office and told them- “Cut off our cable service!”

It is gone! And I will receive a \$6 rebate. Originally we had purchased the 2nd level of cable viewing because there were channels called “History, Discovery and National Geographic.” What I have found is people living in swamps in the South who have long unkempt beards and hair and have more tattoos than teeth. And often they have to run text under them while they are talking (English?) so we can understand what ever gibberish it is the program is about. And 50% of the time is commercials! I guess some people want to hear hundreds of ads about Viagra.

The increase in rates recently sent me over the edge finally. We are talking nearly \$700 a year for 500 channels and nothing to watch. That is almost two tickets to Hawaii. I did write the manager of our local cable operation and tell him I was near the end of my rope. “Ain't nothin' I can do about it,” he said – “get hold of your Congressman the FCC tells us we can't package things up the way you want – you have to pay for the junk you don't watch.” That was it – enough – off I went to my electronic supply headquarters – the TV-Camera Department at Fred Meyer on Stevens and 19th. Over the years I have found they know everything.

Following the wise advice of an elder North Slope Sage I walked in and asked for a “Flatwave Indoor HDTV Antenna (MADE IN USA). “Right this way,” said my knowledgeable clerk. I left 15 minutes later with all the equipment I would need – antenna, cable and a cable split. Remember to measure before you go! Within an hour I was receiving as many channels as I had before. Missing, of course, were the bearded Southerners speaking in tongues.

The biggest problem I had was installing the cable on our television in the basement. I had to weave it in and between pipes and beams. This is the set we send the grandsons to watch when they arrive for “visits”. But our new television set up does have many cartoon viewing opportunities and I am happy to report we no longer have to run for the remote when one called “Fart Boy” came on.

There are many websites set up for these antennas and will tell you what ever you want to know or you can head for Fred Meyer. The programing schedule is on the computer and easy to look up. I am happy with our 'new' service – still as many ads – but I am not paying for them anymore. Why I feel like I am even sleeping better at night – thinking about that trip to Hawaii next year no doubt.

Oh, almost forgot...we are on high ground facing North here on the Northslope...so remember the TV towers are to the North and that is the way your antenna must face. Enjoy!