GPS Antenna and Maxstream data modem antennas modifications

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The purpose of the modification is to reduce the weight of the antenna as well as customize the antenna for easier integration onto the YardStik aircraft.

1. Modification of the Maxstream data modem antenna.
The Maxstream data modem that is used onboard of the YardStik aircraft is the 9xTend OEM board that has a MMCX connector with the pigtail antenna (figure 1).

![Maxstream OEM 9xTend data modem](http://www.maxstream.net/products/xtend/oem-rf-module.php)

Figure 1. Maxstream OEM 9xTend data modem

![Maxstream OEM 9xTend whip antennas](http://www.maxstream.net/products/accessories/antennas-whip.php)

Figure 2. Maxstream OEM 9xTend whip antennas

Figure 2 shows the Pigtail antenna with the MMCX connectors which we are modifying. The weight of this antenna without modification is 28g. The antenna housing is stripped and the metal mounting housing is removed as well. To do that, the MMCX connector has to be cut off to allow the metal housing base to slot out of the
antenna and a new MMCX connector is crimp to the antenna wire again. Figure 3 and 4 shows the modified antenna.

Figure 3. Antenna with housing stripped

Figure 4. Fully modified antenna

The modified antenna weighs about 6 grams. (weight reduction of 22g)
2. **Modification of the GPS antenna.**

The GPS antenna that is used on the MNav is MK-76 active antenna. The original antenna has a length of 1m and weighs 30g. As we are going to embed the GPS antenna into the wing of the YardStik aircraft, we shortened the antenna and remove the metal mounting base which are not useful to us. However, due to removal of the metal base (which serves as a ground plane), we are going to use aluminum foil as the replacement ground plane.

![Figure 5 Modified GPS antenna](image)

The steps to modify the GPS antenna are as follows:

- Remove the plastic housing of the GPS antenna
- Remove the 3 screws that secure to the mounting base
- De-solder the electrical contact point from the PCB to the mounting base
- Remove the mounting base. Once remove, we are able to de-solder the coaxial antenna attached to the GPS antenna.
- Cut the excess wire that you do not required and re-solder the co-axial wire back to the antenna (both the signal line and the ground shielding wires)

We modified the length of the wire to 45 cm and its weighs 15 g after the modification. (weight reduction of 15g)