March 2011 Volume 03-2011

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2011 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Rusty Sanders – KD5GEN

VP: Clarence Riddle – KC5UBP

Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club is to support and promote Amateur Radio by public service, offering training to unlicensed interested parties and licensed Amateurs, mutual support of other Amateurs, engaging events that promote Amateur radio to the general public and other Amateur radio operators, and continuing fellowship by regularly scheduled organized meetings and events.

MARCH MINUTES

The March meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on March 2nd. **President Rusty, KD5GEN**, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Seventeen members and five guests were present. Each person present introduced himself. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The Treasurer's report was read.

It's time to renew the club's liability insurance, and Army made a motion to pay the $325 invoice. Approved.

CONTEST REPORTS:
Reports were given on the various contests that club members participated in during February.

SHUTTLE COLUMBIA SPECIAL EVENT STATION:
The Shuttle Columbia special event station operation was a great success, with one group operating 40 meters from the station of **AE5P** and another group operating 20 meters from the station of **N5YA**. A total of 932 contacts were made, with the vast majority being made on 20 meters. The requests for QSL cards have been pouring in. Thankfully, QSL cards will again be handled by **John, W5FWR**.

CLUB NETS:

President Rusty reviewed the present net control assignments for the two club nets held weekly on 2 meters. A couple of holes in those assignments were filled, but we are always looking for more people to check into the nets and to try their hand at being a net control station.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Skywarn training will be held in Lufkin on March 17, 6-9 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Belton HamExpo, April 2nd.

VHFSouth Memorial Day Barbeque, May 28th at N5YA. Please RSVP to Kay at 409-625-0309.

Neches River Rendezvous, June 4th.

HamCom / ARRL National Convention in Plano, June 10-11.

ARRL VHF+ June Contest, June 11-12.

HAM HISTORY:

President Rusty is looking for information on old time ham radio operators in the Nacogdoches area. If you have any information to share, please contact **Rusty**.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35.

Program: **Tom W5TV** presented an excellent program on antenna modeling using a computer.

NEWEST HAMS

Our newest ham is **Mike Brown, KF5KEY**. Mike is a long time resident of Nacogdoches who has wanted to get his license for many years, and has finally taken the plunge. If you hear him on the air, please make him feel welcome.

OSCILLATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

My, how time passes fast these days. I had totally forgotten about the need for the newsletter until AE5P sent out his monthly letter.

As I write this article, I am preparing to accompany AE5P to the hamfest in Belton. I am going to work at not making some purchase that I think I need but have no use for. It will be interesting with the current gas prices if there is the usual turnout for the big event.

I can usually see everything I need to see at one of these events in 1 pass. My late wife banned me from accompanying her to Canton to trade days because within an hour of seeing the junk, I was ready to leave. What I enjoy is meeting some of the operators who I have talked to in the past plus seeing some of the vehicles that show up with the arrangements of antenna scattered all over the vehicle.

At our last meeting, Michael Brown was a visitor and now he is a member. He came to the VE testing session and

passed his tech and general tests with flying colors. His new call is KF5KEY. I want to welcome Mike to the hobby and our club.

I did not have a lot to cover this time but will close with this little tidbit. This morning, I was working in the yard and took a water break. I happened to hear this red bird just chirping away and looked up to track the sound. There he sat on the rear horizontal element of my 2-meter beam. What was really amusing was that he would start his call near the boom and as he continued to call, he inched along to the end of the element. When he finished his call, he moved back to the boom and then start over. I never considered erecting a tower and beams would be something to assist nature.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 6. I hope to see everyone there.

Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

KD5GEN- Rusty

email:
rusty.sanders@att.net

VP's CORNER

February QST has an article about a new amateur satellite ARISSat-1 that has the first software defined transponder on an amateur radio satellite.

The software approach allows for more sophisticated satellites in the future.

Even though this satellite will only be in orbit between 2 and 6 months, it is good for the ham community.

73 de Clarence KC5UBP

email:
clarence404@hotmail.com

VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Applicants should bring a picture ID, the original and a copy of their current Amateur license, the original of any CSCE's and $15 to cover the cost of the exam(s). Correct change is always very much appreciated. 73 de AE5P

email: ae5p@arrl.net

CLUB NETS

Remember to join us each week for the 2-meter nets sponsored by NARC. Each **MONDAY** is the **NARC ARES/RACES** net, at 8:00 p.m. on the club's 146.84 repeater (PL 141.3). Second, on **THURSDAY** evenings at 8:00 p.m. is the **Deep East Texas Skywarn Emergency Weather Net** on the 147.32 repeater (PL 141.3). Please join us for one or both. We are always looking for folks

who would like to become net control operators. If you are interested, please contact any of the existing net controls. We will be pleased to help you in any way we can.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday April 6th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. The church is at the corner of Starr and Mound Streets in Nacogdoches. Hope to see all of you there.

PARTING SHOTS

I'm hoping to have an interesting program for our meeting this Wednesday. For certain, our fearless President will have a confession to make about his lack of will power at hamfests, and he also promises a culinary treat for all. So, if you eat supper before the meeting, leave some room.

If any of you have some ideas about a possible program, please let me know. While we certainly have a lot of talent in the club in many different areas, ideas for programs can still be tough to come up with. If you can come up with an idea, I'll bet we can come up with someone to present a program on the idea.

See ya'll Wednesday.

73 de AE5P

BASIC ANTENNAS

PART 30

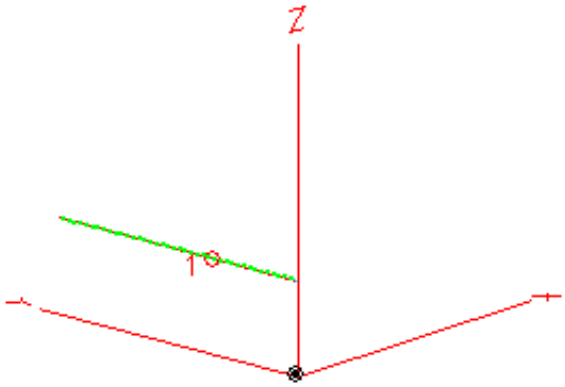
by

Thomas Atchison W5TV

A windom antenna was originally called a "single-feeder Hertz" antenna when it was introduced by Loren G. Windom in the September 1929 QST. A windom antenna is fed with a single wire that is approximately 14% off center and it is worked against ground. Since the feed line is brought directly into the shack there is the potential for "RF in the shack". Of course one needs a GOOD ground for this antenna to work very well.

One form of the windom antenna is 130 feet long and is fed 47 feet from one end. An EZNEC model of this antenna is shown below.

EZNEC



The wire is 40 feet above earth and the feed point is shown by the red circle close to 1. It is 14% off center and 36% from the end of the wire.

The elevation radiation pattern at 14 MHz is shown in Fig. 1.

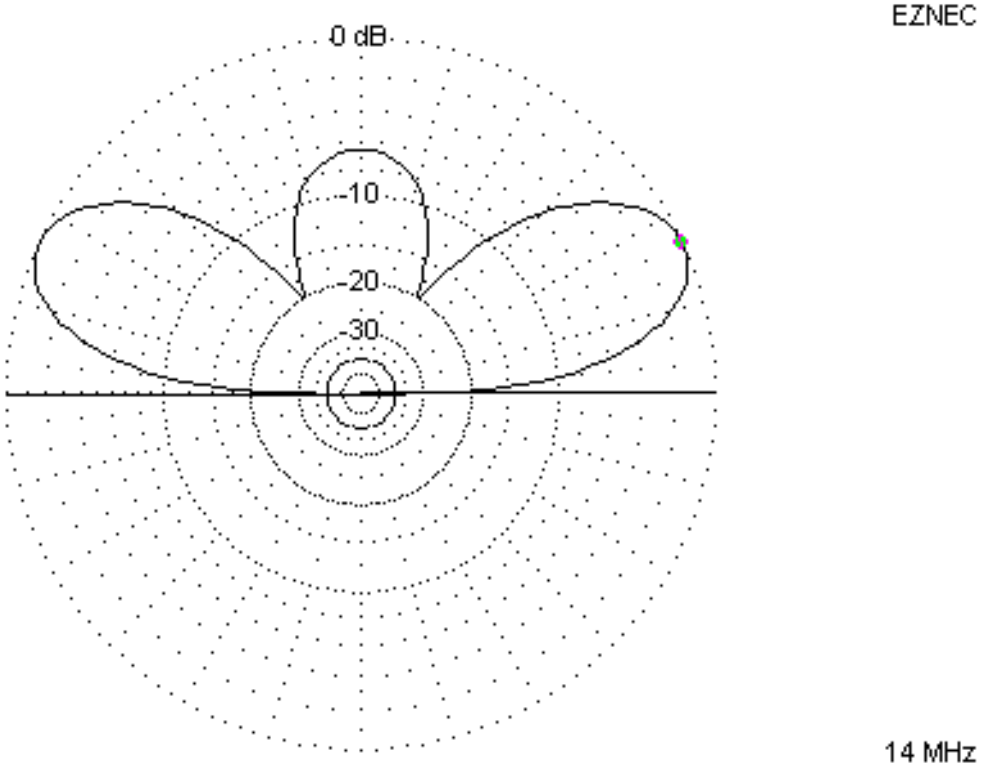


Fig. 1

The angle of maximum radiation is at 25 degrees.

The azimuthal radiation pattern at 25 degrees is shown in Fig. 2.

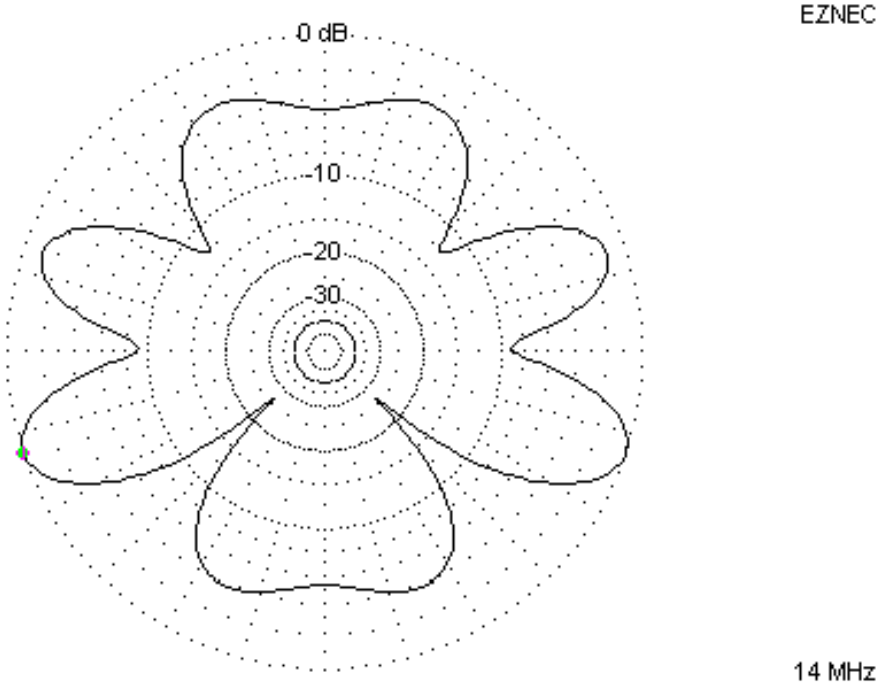


Fig. 2

The windom antenna is often confused with the Off Center Fed (OCF) dipole, probably because they are both fed 'off center'. Fig. 3 shows an EZNEC model of an OCF dipole that is 130 feet long and fed 45.3 feet from one end. The feed line is open wire transmission line that is 22 feet long and the feedpoint is represented by the red circle near the number 3.

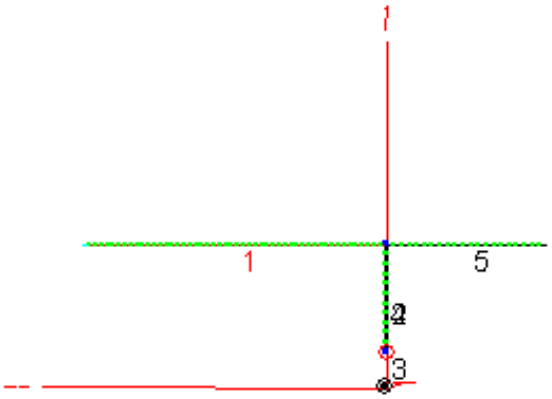


Fig. 3

The elevation radiation pattern at 14 MHz is shown in Fig. 4.

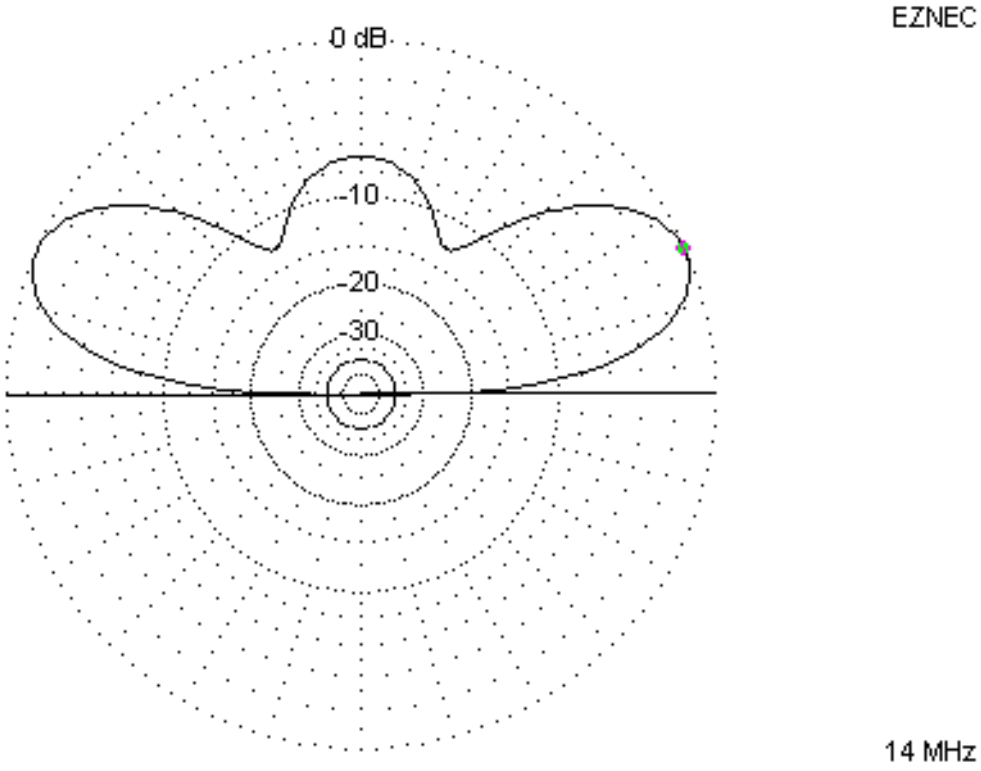


Fig. 4

The maximum radiation for this antenna is at 24 degrees.

The azmuthal radiation pattern at 24 degrees is shown in Fig. 5.

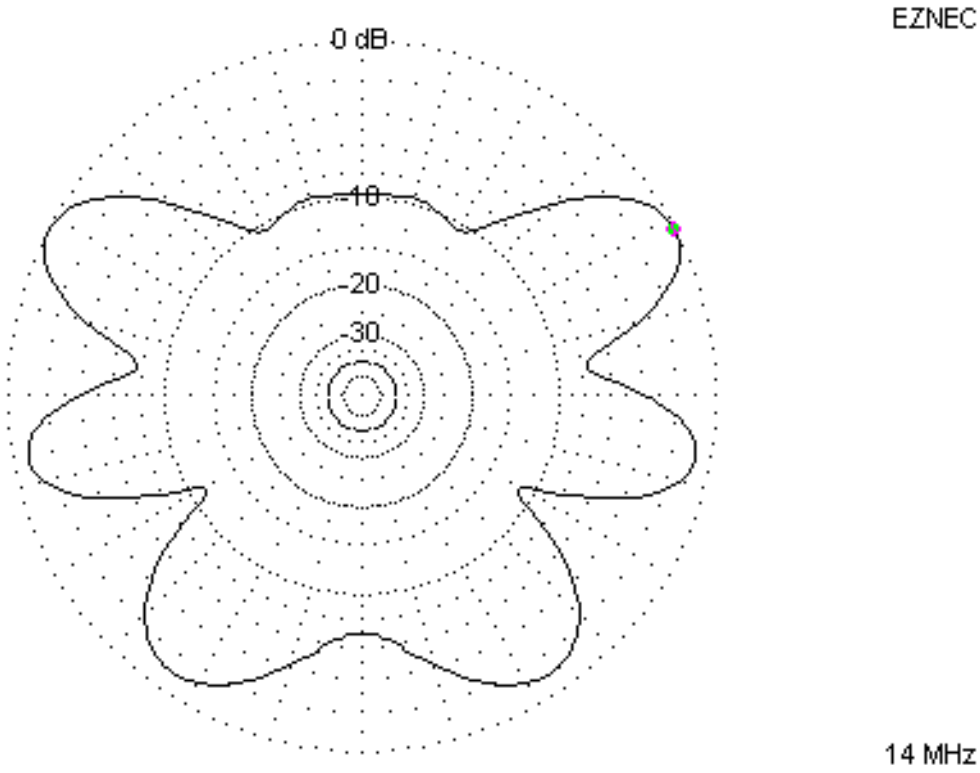


Fig. 5

The radiation patterns of the OCF dipole and the windom are very similar, however, the windom is worked against its image in the ground, whereas, the OCF dipole works one leg against the other. You should not have radiation in the shack with the OCF dipole. If the OCF dipole is fed about 1/3 of its length from one end it works well on its fundamental frequency and even harmonics. By contrast, a center fed dipole works well on its fundamental frequency and odd harmonics. Either of these antennas can be used on multiple HF bands provided you use a tuner to match the antenna to the transmitter. You may use lengths of wire other than 130 feet. Just place the feed point approximately 1/3 of the way from one end.