

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

## 2014 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: John Cechin - W5FWR

VP: John Chapman - KC5MIB

Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

Visit our web site at

<http://w5nac.com/>

## 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.



## JULY MINUTES

The July meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on July 2nd. **President John W5FWR**, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Thirteen members and one guest were present. Each person present introduced them self. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The Treasurer's report was read.

### Old Business:

Field Day was held at the shack of AE5P. Several

members stopped by and once again many stories were swapped, but very few contacts were made while the spectators were present. Future events will separate the operators from the spectators.

### New Business:

The IARU/WRTC contest is coming up soon, and the Texas QSO Party is not far off either.

W5TV took delivery on a new Flex 6500 and says it's a keeper.

The quote of the week was heard during discussions: **"If you want eye contact, look in the mirror!"**

Meeting closed at 7:15 p.m.

### Program:

The second annual Ice Cream and Cookies Festival

was the program for the evening, and it was a smashing success. Some participants were observed going back for 3rds and still there was ice cream left.

## MY 2 CENTS

### FOX WILLY ROGER

#### AUGUST:

For the people that don't know, this is August, time is getting close to elect club officers, so don't hide, run away, or pretend you don't hear, step up and take your turn. Remember too, you can't be any worse than the current president. More about this subject in the September NL, remember the club must go forth.

It has fallen upon me to be the bearer of bad tidings. The bad tidings I speak of are that great wind and rain we had come thru here a few days ago. That bit of weather stripped my word tree almost to the twigs and branches; I don't know if I have enough words to finish out the

year. Being as dedicated that I am, I will do my best to finish. I don't know if you know, but when a word falls off the tree and hits the ground it becomes unusable and lost forever, so now that's why I hate to see storms come through my back yard. It's a terrible thing to see a word die.

I had a visit from; well all I can say is that some call him St. Nick. Except my visitor didn't have a white beard, or a hat, a jacket, or pants of red velvet trimmed in fine white fur, that reminds me of my days in Houston's Montrose area. All in all, the visit from St. Nick was special; I had stopped believing in him a long time ago. The visitor brought me some goodies, which reminds me, I haven't thanked St. Nick, for the cat food and the people food, it's almost as good as food stamps, **thank you**. All the time St. Nick was here, **TB** sat on the bar and watched him, she hadn't seen him before, what a great day.

#### PHASE II.V.V:

And now we are on the subject of cats, see how neat I did that. Let me update you on my group. With each passing day **GB** ventures forth into new territory of the house. Just this AM, she was looking out the front door, one more leap for mankind. **TB** now sits on me when I am sleeping, that is when she thinks I have been sleeping too long. She watches me for signs of open eyes. When that happens it's like the starter's pistol going off, all the cats start to run and jump and bounce off the walls, its breakfast time and a little more bouncing and nap time. It's a tough life, but someone got to do it. **TB** and **GB** are the main bouncers, and **CU** sits and watches, after a day or so **CU** will be doing much the same things, it's like she is seeing what the house limit is and if nothing is said, all is a go. A pecking order has been set up with the girls, first comes **TB**, she's the oldest, then **GB** and last its **CU**, these are sisters, if you remember. **CU** being

last doesn't seem to bother her much as CU is an easy going type, for the most part. If things are important to her then what out, it is like that with all things so I shouldn't be surprised. **HM** lets me pet him only when feeding time comes around, it is like he is saying "the things I have to go through to get fed". The other times he will sit by me, but not too close, when I set or work in the yard, it seems that he wants the company but on his terms, to be a free spirit of sorts.

### IN DAYS OF OLD, CATS WERE WORSHIPED AS GODS AND THEY HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN IT

Last month I reported on my century plant in bloom. Well the bloom cycle is past, now all that is left is to see what is going to happen to the 20ft stem, is it just going to shrivel up or fall over or what? The thing still looks like a cell tower, quite truly impressive. I will let you know the next time it blooms.

Be sure and hug a cactus today, they need love too.

The word tree is finished for this trip and it thanks you all for enjoying its words.

Remember: keep your powder dry and your head below the horizon.

Happy Trails

73 Enjoy

What do you think, let me know?

73,

John Cechin W5FWR

[Carrots4ever2u@suddenlink.net](mailto:Carrots4ever2u@suddenlink.net)

### VEEPS CORNER

Army reminds FWR and me around this time every month to visit our word tree and harvest a few leaves to pass around. Well, the winds didn't blow my word tree down or the leaves from the tree. The rain has been good and there seem to be more leaves out there. Don't know how well I'll put the words together.

What a weird weather month July has been, really strange I think. I don't remember it being this wet, but then again the memory is getting a bit rough around the edges. San Antonio had a Weather Rain fall net that met every night except Christmas and sometimes even then. They had a special set of rain gauges and would report the rainfall around San Antonio to net control and then to the weather service. It was a lot of fun. I wonder if it is still in operation.

Phillip Blackburn, WB5TAL, will present the program this month. He will tell us about his tracking transmitters. Truly the ultimate fox hunt. I visited with him when he worked in the Science department at SFA. The resistors he had in a little zip lock bag weren't much bigger than ground up black pepper. It should be interesting. Oh take a minute and ask him about his ham radios.

I won't be there this month and I do apologize for missing as many meetings as I have. Work calls and pays the bills. I will be in Austin for a few days this week going to the TAB conference and show, drooling over new broadcast gear and visiting with some of my un-indicted co-conspirators

73 de  
John  
KC5MIB  
[jlchapman2@juno.com](mailto:jlchapman2@juno.com)

## VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for Wednesday, August 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](mailto: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 August 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. A very interesting program is

planned. Please come join us and bring a friend.

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE

Mark your calendars for the following events coming up in the next few months:

**AUSTIN SUMMERFEST** -  
Aug 1-2  
<http://www.austinsummerfest.org/>

**ARRL UHF CONTEST** -  
Aug 2-3  
<http://www.arrl.org/august-uhf>

**NORTH AMERICAN QSO PARTY (NAQP) (SSB)** -  
August 16-17  
<http://ncjweb.com/naqp/>

**33rd Annual 2014 ARRL/TAPR DCC (Digital Communications Conference)** - Sept 5-7 in Austin.  
<http://www.tapr.org/dcc>

**ARRL SEPTEMBER VHF  
CONTEST** - Sept 13-15

<http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

**ARKANSAS QSO PARTY**  
- Sept 23

<http://www.arkqsoparty.com/>

**TEXAS QSO PARTY** -  
Sept 27 - 28

<http://www.txqp.org/>

**CALIFORNIA QSO  
PARTY** - October 3 - 5

<http://www.cqp.org/index.html>

**CQ WW DX CONTEST  
SSB** - October 25 - 26

<http://www.cqww.com/index.htm>

**ARRL SWEEPSTAKES  
CW** - November 1 - 3

<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

**ARRL SWEEPSTAKES  
SSB** - November 15 - 17

<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

**CQ WW DX CONTEST  
CW** - November 29 - 30

<http://www.cqww.com/index.htm>

## The Off-Center Fed Dipole

By

Thomas A. Atchison W5TV

Several people have discussed the Off Center Fed (OCF) dipole. I would like to look at the design of an OCF dipole and how it might operate using an EZNEC simulation. I used a home brew OCF dipole for several years with some success; however, I discovered that on some bands it was subject to R.F. in the shack.

Many people incorrectly use the name 'Windom Antenna' for any wire antenna with off center feed. A Windom antenna has a single wire that is connected to the horizontal element. That wire goes down to the feed point that has a ground on the other side. That is, a conventional Windom antenna is worked against its image in the ground.

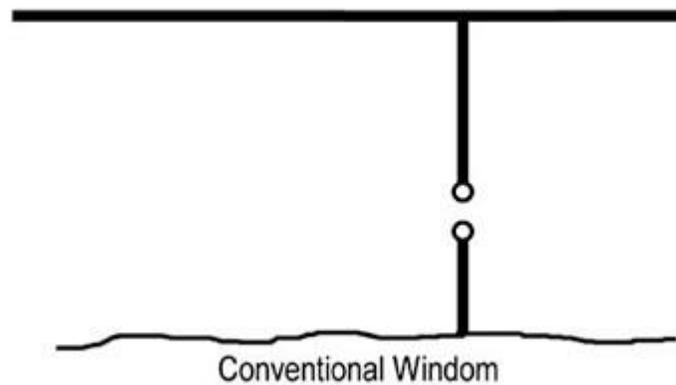


Fig. 1

An OCF dipole is constructed like a traditional dipole except that it is not fed at the center of the horizontal element but at some point nearer to one end of the horizontal element. That is, one leg of the dipole is worked against the other leg. The feed line can be either balanced as shown in Fig. 2 or it can be fed with an unbalanced feed line and a balun as shown in Fig. 3.

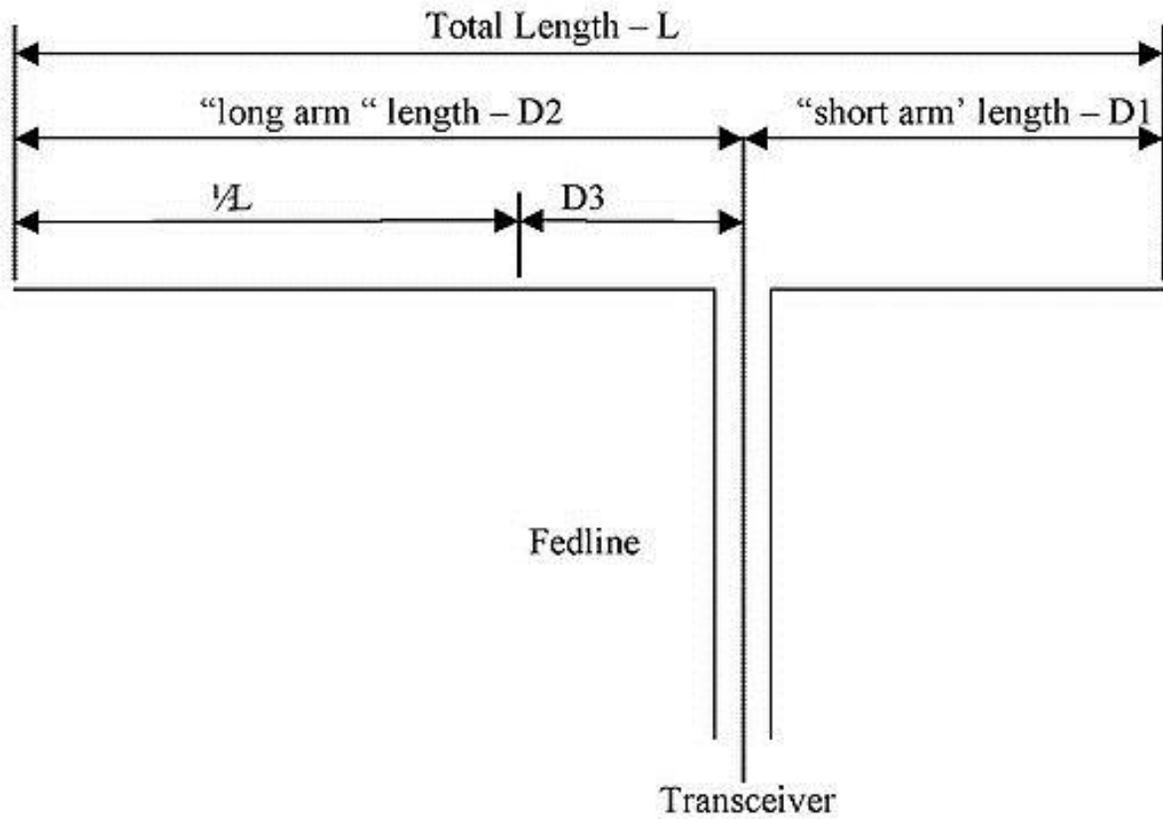


Fig. 2

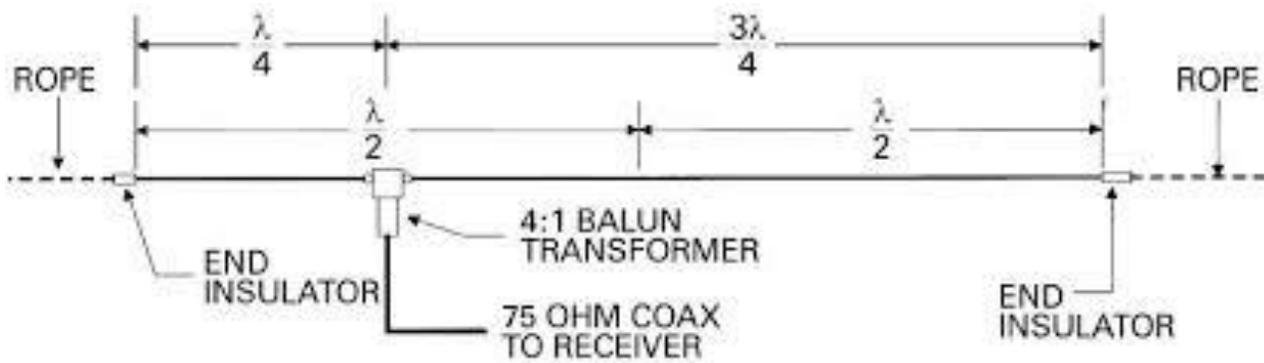


Fig. 3

Recall that a center fed dipole has an impedance of about 75 ohms. Such a dipole has low impedance at its fundamental frequency and at odd harmonics. For example, a center-fed dipole cut for a fundamental frequency of 7 MHz can also be used on 21 MHz.

As we move away from the center the feed point impedance increases. If we could determine a point where the impedance was about 200 ohms, then a 4:1 balun would provide a good match for 50 ohm coax. Such an OCF dipole can be used on its fundamental frequency and on even harmonic frequencies.

Since the OCF dipole is not fed at the center of the radiator, the RF impedance paths of the two wires at the feed point are unequal. If the OCF dipole is fed with balanced line as in Fig. 2, then voltages of equal magnitude but opposite polarity are applied to the wires at the feed point. Because of unequal impedances, the resulting antenna currents flowing in the two wires will not be equal. This also means that antenna current can flow on the feeder and created RF in the shack. Using a current or choke type balun at the feed point can minimize this.

Suppose we use EZNEC to simulate an OCF dipole with a fundamental frequency of 3.8 MHz fed 1/3 of its length from one end. Consider a wire antenna that is 130 feet long and suppose the feed point is 45.3 feet from one end. The SWR plot for a 200-ohm impedance is as follows:

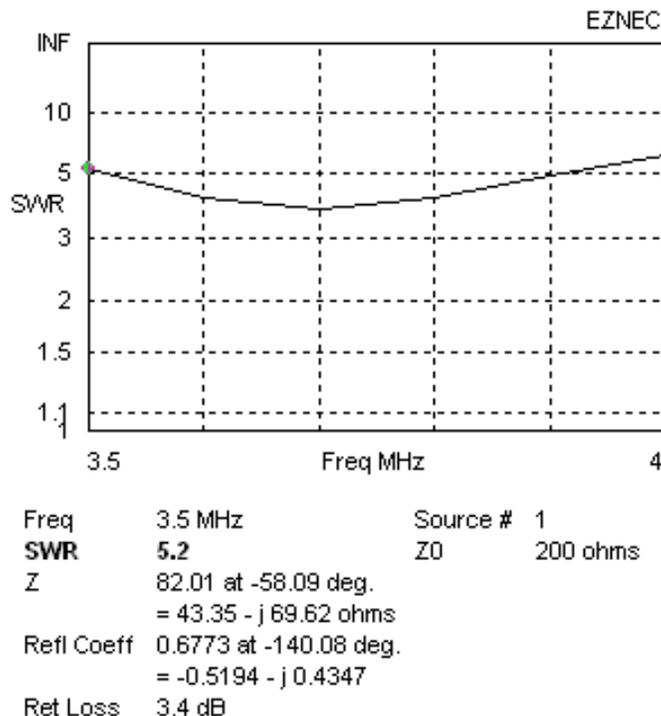


Fig. 5

The SWR varies from a minimum of about 4:1 up to about 6:1. Either a 4:1 or 6:1 current balun can be used at the feed point with 50 ohm coax to produce a good OCF dipole for 80 meters. This antenna should be usable on 40 meters, 20 meters, and 10 meters.