October 2011 Volume 10-2011

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.

OCTOBER MINUTES

The October meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on October 5th. **President Rusty KD5GEN**, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Eighteen members and three guests were present. Each person present introduced himself. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The Treasurer's report was read.

The Lufkin Hamfest will be held on Saturday, October 22. See their website at www.lufkinhamfest.com for complete details. NARC will assist with the food concession and the VE testing.

The Piney Woods Purgatory Bike Ride was held as scheduled. The Lufkin 94 repeater was linked to our 32 repeater to facilitate communications across the area covered by the bike ride. No comm problems were reported.

President Rusty appointed a nominating committee consisting of Bill KA5OOZ, Bill WK5F, and Army AE5P. They will report back at the November meeting.

Shuttle Columbia Special Event Station will be held February 4th, 2012. Kay Simpson (N5YA xyl) is the new manager of the Columbia Museum in

Hemphill, and has invited us to hold our SES at the museum in 2012. Kay has requested NASA to send an astronaut to participate with us, and is awaiting a response. NARC will be organizing car pools to assist members with the drive to and from Hemphill. It promises to be one of the best SES operations yet.

Lufkin now has a new primary Skywarn repeater on 147.260 (+) PL 141.3.

The NARC Christmas meeting/party will be held at our usual meeting location on December 7th, beginning at 6:00 p.m. There will be a pot luck dinner and our famous White Elephant auction.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

OSCILLATIONS FROM THE CHAIR

Hello everyone. As you are well aware the cooler weather has arrived along with a little of the precious stuff called rain.

At our next meeting, we will finalize details for the Christmas party. I was unable to make the Lufkin Hamfest but am looking forward to details of the event.

Please remember that this coming weekend, November 6 to be almost exact, we must change our local clocks to reflect the change from Daylight Savings back to regular time. Remember to also change the batteries in your smoke detectors and while you are doing that, go ahead and test them. A number of years ago when I was working (BR: before retirement), some of the fire trade journals indicated research regarding the batteries used in smoke detectors. This study indicated that it was not necessary to use a more expensive 9-volt battery in a smoke detector. This decision was based on what I will call the die-off time for a battery. The cheaper 9-volt batteries had a longer die-off time than the more expensive batteries. When the smoke detector senses the battery is getting low, it will emit a single beep on a given time frame to let the occupant know the battery is low. The cheaper battery has a longer, low battery alerting time than the more expensive batteries. The more expensive battery dies off quicker than the cheap battery. This study was done ten plus years ago and a lot of improvements have been made in batteries so I do not know if this study is still valid but makes for interesting trivia. So, if you have been off on a vacation, you might want to test your smoke/fire detectors just to see if the battery has failed while you were going. Basically if no one is home and the smoke detector beeps, does it make any

noise??? Sort of like a tree falling in the forest.

In the recent ARRL email letter, you might have seen the announcement of the Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System. This is to be conducted at 1 PM CST on November 9, 2011. The test will last for 3 minutes and may cause some confusion. There are questions if the "This is a Test" scroll or verbal command will accompany all of the broadcasts. If it does not, the 911 operators of the nation could be inundated with calls from worried citizens. A large call volume could tie up emergency circuits and cause response delays.

Please be aware that NARC will be replacing the 146.84 antenna on the City Tower in the next week or two. This change should alleviate some problems we have been experiencing lately.

It is good to have AE5P back from his cruise. He is waiting on me to finish this article so he can finalize the NARC newsletter.

Hope to see you at the meeting on November 2.

KD5GEN- Rusty

email: rusty.sanders@att.net

VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16th 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 November 2nd** 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. Election of Officers is scheduled. Please come and vote.

RADIO GIVEAWAY

If you are a current member of the

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, and upgrade your ham license to General or Extra during the calendar year 2011, you will receive one or more tickets for a special drawing to be held at the club's annual Christmas party / meeting on December 7th, 2011.

Members upgrading from Tech to General will receive one ticket. Members upgrading from General to Extra will receive two tickets. Members upgrading from Tech to Extra will receive three tickets.

Each winner of the drawing will receive at minimum an Amateur Radio HF transceiver complete with power supply and microphone. Depending on donations, there may be more equipment added to this.

At this time, there are at least three complete HF radios available for the drawing:

1. Drake TR-5 transceiver

2. Kenwood TS-140 transceiver

3. Kenwood TS-130 transceiver

The drawing will be administered and conducted by the Club Secretary/Treasurer.

Winners of this equipment are asked to donate their equipment back to the club if they no longer have a need for it, so the program can be continued in future years.

If you would like to donate equipment to be used for this program, please contact **AE5P**.

BASIC ANTENNAS

PART 37

by

Thomas Atchison W5TV

In Basic Antennas Part 36 we talked about creating a triangular loop antenna with two elements (a driven element and a director) mounted on a single vertical mast. We can also create a three-element array by adding a reflector to the previous antenna. The three elements will use a single center support for the three apexes of the triangular elements and the three bases will have 9 feet of separation. A diagram of the system is shown in Fig. 1.

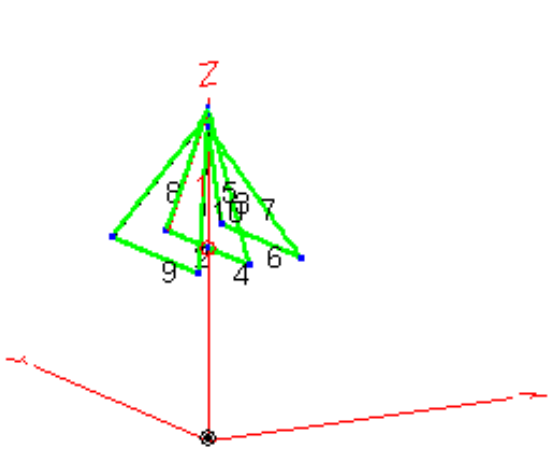

Fig. 1

The antenna is shown in green. The driven element is 73.2 feet long and it is fed at the middle of the base. The apex of the driven element is 50.2 feet high and its base

is 29 feet above the ground. The director is 70.2 feet long with its apex at a height of 47.2 feet. The base of the director is at 29 feet and it is 9 feet from the base of the driven element. The reflector is 76.8 feet long with its apex at a height of 49.2 feet. The base of the reflector is at 29 feet and it is 9 feet from the base of the driven element on the other side of the driven element. If we feed the driven element with 52-ohm coax the SWR sweep from 14 MHz to 14.35 MHz is shown in Fig. 2.

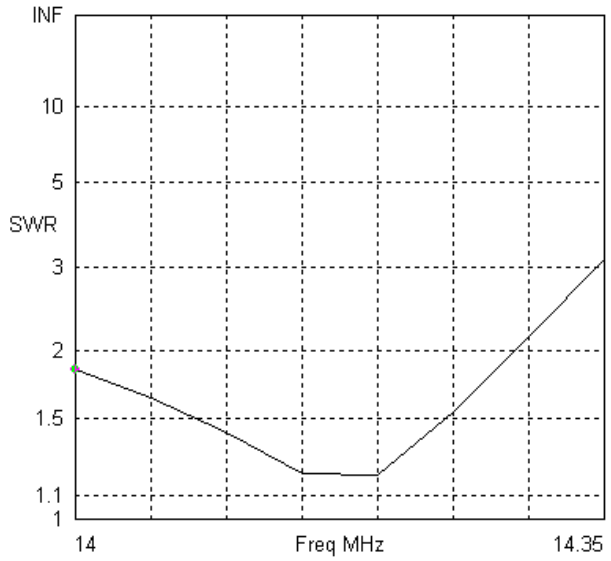

Fig. 2

Minimum SWR occurs at 14.200 MHz. The elevation radiation pattern for this antenna is shown in Fig. 3.

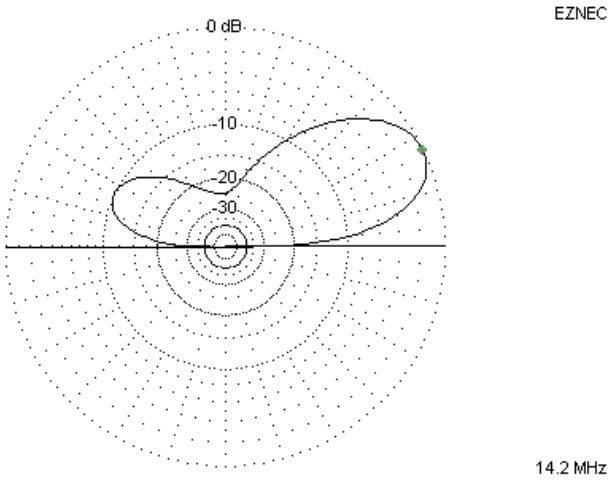

Fig. 3

Maximum radiation occurs at about 26 degrees and it is in the direction of the director. The front to back ratio is much better for this antenna than for the two-element array of the previous article. The gain indicated by the simulation is about 11 dBi.