

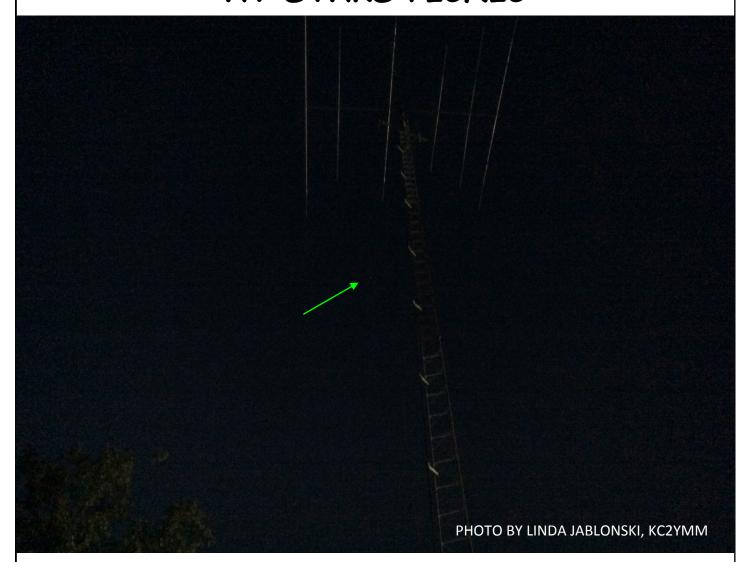


THE NEWSLETTER OF STARS (SOUTH TOWNS AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY)

SEPTEMBER 2014

VOL 48 Issue 1

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION SEEN AT STARS PICNIC



It's there! As promised, the International Space Station (ISS) made an appearance shortly after 9 PM during the annual STARS picnic. A repeat performance was made after 10 PM.

Anyone can get a schedule of ISS appearances. Just enter your location at the following web address: $\frac{\text{http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/index.cfm\#.VAYV_s9MthE}}{\text{http://spotthestation.nasa.gov/sightings/index.cfm\#.VAYV_s9MthE}}$

CLUB OFFICERS

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BLUE AND UNDERLINED

When you see something in TELSTAR in blue letters and underlined, that means it is an Internet link. Hold the "Control" key and click on the link to open.

Try it! sample link (control + click)

SEPTEMBER MEETING

There is no quest speaker for the September meeting.

Two upcoming projects will be discussed. The first will be the upcoming Chinese Auction in October. Also, discussion will be open concerning particulars of STARS offering an IRLP connection.

RADIO ROMANCE

Two antennas met on a rooftop, fell in love and got married. The wedding wasn't much, but the reception was excellent!

I met the man who shot the wedding...he's an aerial photographer.

WE GOOFED

Scott Barto, KB2KOL, pointed out that last month's "STARS Meetings" item mentioned that the June meeting would be on August 8th. It should have been the August meeting. A recheck of the July issue, found the same error (no one reported that error).

Don Niles, K2PMC, reported that the "Up With Antennas" column had two different illustrations labelled, "Figure 2". The second one should have read, "Figure 3".

If you see something that is not correct, let us know

wb2elw@verizon.net at:

STARS MEETINGS

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STARS meetings are usually at 7:00 PM on the first Thursday of each month, at the Hamburg Memorial Youth Center, 200 Prospect Avenue (near Hawkins Avenue) in Hamburg.

This month's meeting will be September 4th, at 🙀 7:00 PM, at the Hamburg Memorial Youth Center. 🙀

All are welcome.

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The STARS board usually meets at 7:00 PM on ★ the fourth Thursday of each month at the Nike Base Radio Clubhouse, just west of the Hamburg Town Arena, 2982 Lakeview Road, Hamburg.

This month, the board will meet on September 25th, at the Nike Base Radio Clubhouse.

All members are welcome.

CLUB NETS

3.925 MHz +/- QRM Saturdays 10:00 AM

Sundays 9:30 AM 28.380 MHz

Sundays 10:30 AM 147.09 MHz (repeater)



SouthTowns Amateur Radio Society 3rd ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

CHINESE AUCTION

Thursday, October 2nd, 2014



7:00 PM

Hamburg Youth Center 200 Prospect Avenue Hamburg, NY 14075









Theme Baskets
Raffles
50/50





Refreshments Available



Well well, it appears that someone is actually reading the pearls of wisdom offered up by yours truly every month. One of our members has asked if I would discuss the characteristics of a Windom antenna. Of course, I would be happy to do that. So here goes......

When we hear the word dipole, we naturally think of a center fed antenna. A Windom is the same length as a dipole but it is not a center fed antenna. But before I get into some of the technical aspects of the Windom, a history lesson is in order.

The Windom antenna dates back to the 1920s. Not surprisingly, it owes its name to its inventor, Loren Windom, W86Z. The length of a Windom antenna is a half wave length on its fundamental frequency. An 80 meter Windom is about 132 feet long. Unlike the dipole, where the feed point is located in the center, the feed point on the Windom is roughly 33% in from one end. Now, the original Windom used a single wire feeder, worked against ground. Because, this feeder was actually a part of the antenna, RF energy was brought into the shack. We all know that RF in the shack is a "No No" for a multitude of reasons.

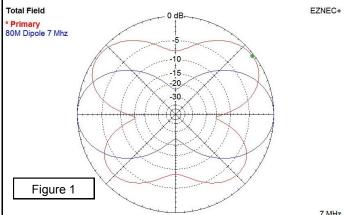
As time progressed, hams began feeding the antenna with coax or balanced feeders, but the Windom name remained. So, those antennas are not really Windom antennas. They are "Off Center Fed" (OCF) dipoles.

Sometime ago some clever hams began marketing their version of the OCF dipole, calling it the Carolina Windom and promulgating claims of "low angle, omnidirectional radiation patterns." We will discuss these claims later on in this column.

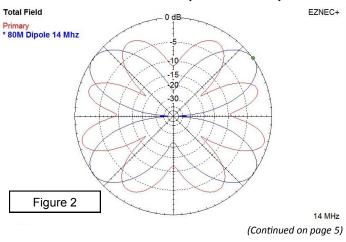
OK, let's see how an OCF dipole stacks up against a conventional dipole. First of all, forget about a change

in take off angle, because there is none. You have to raise the antenna to lower the take off angle.

On their fundamental frequency, there is no difference between the two antennas. They both exhibit the classic figure 8 pattern. However, on the 2nd harmonic the conventional dipole still maintains its figure 8 pattern while the OCF dipole displays more of a cloverleaf pattern. Figure 1 is an azimuth display of an 80 meter antenna used on its 2nd harmonic (i.e. 40 meters).



As you can see, the overall gain is about the same, but the OCF dipole exhibits directional characteristics in line with the longer leg. Figure 2 compares the antennas on their 4th harmonic (i.e. 20 meters)



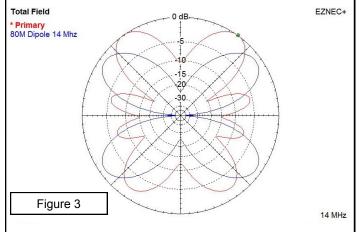
(Continued from page 4)



Note that the conventional dipole now exhibits a cloverleaf pattern with slightly more gain in certain directions. However, the OCF dipole exhibits more of an omnidirectional pattern, covering more points on the compass.

So, if the cloverleaf pattern on 40 meters and the more omnidirectional pattern on 20 meters suits your needs, then go for the OCF dipole. Otherwise, you can never go wrong with the conventional dipole.

As I was writing this I started thinking about moving the feed point of the OCF dipole to somewhere other than 33%. Keep in mind that we must keep the feed point somewhere on the current up slope to maintain impedance values at a manageable level for our antenna tuner. Figure 3 compares the conventional dipole to the OCF dipole, fed 10% in from the end.



I found that the patterns on 80 and 40 meters are essentially the same as they were before. However, you will notice that on 20 meters the OCF dipole loses some of its omnidirectional characteristics and tends to focus its power in line with the long end, thereby exhibiting considerable gain over the conventional dipole. If you want to poke a strong signal into a particular area, of the world then this configuration would work well

Now let me devote a few words to the well marketed (and expensive) Carolina Windom. The omnidirectional claims made are in reference to 20 meters. Studies have shown that when mounted above, or very near to

salt water, the vertical coaxial portion does somewhat enhance the omnidirectional characteristics of the antenna. Ergo, if you can erect your antenna above or near the ocean, then go for it. But, don't buy it; make it for a lot less! However, if you look at Figure 2 you can see that the OCF dipole exhibits very good omnidirectional characteristics, sans any vertical elements.

I sincerely hope I have satisfied my reader's curiosity with respect to the OCF (aka Windom) antenna.

See you next month......

73,



Don, K2PMC

(Editor's note: If you have questions or comments regarding anything from "Up with Antennas", feel free to email Don Niles at: k2pmc@arrl.net.)

Lancaster Hamfest

Sunday - September 14, 2014

7:00 am - till

Bowen Road Grove MAP

\$7.00 admission and free tailgating

3845 Bowen Rd, Lancaster NY 14086 (Located across from rear entrance of Como Lake Park)



APRS Hamfest Beacon "W2SO-2" Talk in: 147.255 PL 107.2

STARS PICNIC HIGHLIGHTS



ALL STARS CULINARY TEAM AT WORK



GETTING READY FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION



ENJOYING THE WORK OF THE CULINARY TEAM



YLs AND XYLs HEAT UP THE PICNIC



JUDY LEVAN, N2TEZ, SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS



KEN POKIGO, KC2AYK, SELECTS RAFFLE WINNERS

Thanx to Linda Jablonski, KC2YMM, for all the photographs...

HAMFESTS

09/07/2014 BCARA SwapFest

Location: Location: Unionville Fire Department

102 Mahood Road Unionville. PA

Sponsor: Butler County Amateur Radio Assn

Website: http://www.w3udx.org

09/07/2014 Findlay Hamfest

Location: Hancock County Fairgrounds

1017 East Sandusky Street

Findlay, OH

Sponsor: Findlay Radio Club
Website: http://www.w8ft.org

09/14/2014 Gloucester County ARC

<u>Hamfest</u>

Location: Gloucester County 4-H Fairgrounds

240 Bridgeton Pike (Route 77)

Mullica Hill, NJ

Sponsor: Gloucester County Amateur Radio Club

Website: http://w2mmd.org

09/14/2014 Lancaster Hamfest

Location: Bowen Road Grove

3845 Bowen Road Lancaster, NY

Sponsor: Lancaster Amateur Radio Club

Website: http://qbhamfest.hamgate.net

09/20/2014 DVRA Fall Hamfest

Location: West Windsor Community Park

Route 571

West Windsor, NJ

Sponsor: Delaware Valley Radio Association

Website: http://w2zq.com

(control + click on name for full information)

09/20/2014 <u>Garden State ARA Fall</u> Hamfest

Location: MOESC Building

100 Tornillo Way Tinton Falls, NJ

Sponsor: Garden State Amateur Radio Assn
Website: http://www.gardenstateara.org

09/26/2014 Mid-Atlantic States VHF

Conference

Location: InnPlace Hotel

3327 Street Road Bensalem, PA

Sponsor: Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club Website: http://packratvhf.com

09/27/2014 39th Annual Elmira Int'l

Hamfest/Computerfest

Location: Chemung County Fairgrounds

Grand Central Avenue Horseheads. NY

Sponsor: ARA of the Southern Tier & Chemung

County ARES

Website: http://www.ARAST.org

09/27/2014 Ocean Monmouth ARC

Tailgate Hamfest

Location: Infoage Learning Ctr - Proj. Diana Site

2300 Marconi Road Wall Township, NJ

Sponsor: Ocean Monmouth Amateur Radio Club

Website: http://www.n2mo.org

09/28/2014 Cleveland Hamfest and

Computer Show

Location: Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds

164 Eastland Road

Berea. OH

Sponsor: Hamfest Association of Cleveland, Inc.

Website: http://www.hac.org

(control + click on name for full information)

EXAM SITES

09/06/2014 <u>Jamestown</u>

Sponsor: CARS

Location: Prendergast Library

509 Cherry Street 2nd fl conf rm

Time: 2:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

09/06/2014 North Tonawanda

Sponsor: ARA of the Tonawandas

Location: North Tonawanda Fire Headquarters

495 Zimmerman St - Training Room

Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

09/10/2014 <u>Canandaigua</u>

Sponsor: SQUAW Island ARC

Location: Ontario Co. Safety Training Facility

2914 County Road 48

Time: 6:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

09/13/2014 Coudersport PA

Sponsor: Elk County ARA

Location: Charles Cole Mem'l Hospital—Conf. Rm.

Route 6 East

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

09/16/2014 <u>Meadville PA</u>

Sponsor: Crawford ARS

Location: St Brigid Church Social Hall

383 Arch Street

Time: 6:30 PM (No walk-ins)

09/20/2014 <u>Hamburg</u>

Sponsor: STARS

Location: Hamburg Youth Center

200 Prospect Avenue

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

09/20/2014 <u>Erie PA</u>

Sponsor: Wattsburg Wireless Association
Location: Greene Township Muni Bldg Rm 114

9333 Tate Road

(use district justice entrance)

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

09/20/2014 <u>Rochester NY</u>

Sponsor: Rochester ARA

Location: RIT Gleason Engineering Bldg Rm 3139

1 Lomb Memorial Drive

Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

09/23/2014 Lancaster

Sponsor: Lancaster ARC

Location: Lancaster ARC- Club House Building

525 Pavement Road

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

09/27/2014 Ridgeway PA



Sponsor: Elk County ARA

Location: Elk County Courthouse Annex

300 Center Street

(use district justice entrance)

Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

09/28/2014 <u>Geneseo</u>

Sponsor: Genesee Valley ARA

Location: Livingston County Government Center

2 Court Street Rm 205

Time: 5:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

(control-click on City for more info)

TESTING NEEDS

- Legal photo ID (a driver's license is excellent!)
- Current license and/or CSCE documents, if any, and a non-returnable photocopy of each
- Federal Registration Number (FRN); if none, then Social Security Number (SSN)
- \$15 in cash, check or money order
- Two #2 pencils with erasers, and a pen

(more info)

CONTEST CALENDAR

Start and Finish Contest Title

Sponsor's Website



OK1WC Memorial Contest Sep 1, 1630Z - Sep 1, 1730Z www.memorial-ok1wc.cz Sep 1, 2300Z - Sep 2, 0300Z MI QRP Labor Day CW Sprint http://migrp.org Sep 2, 0100Z- Sep 2, 0300Z **ARS Spartan Sprint** www.arsqrp.blogspot.com/ Sep 3, 0000Z - Sep 3, 0300Z NAQCC/FISTS http://nagcc.info/nancy.html Sep 3, 0100Z - Sep 3, 0300Z **ARS Spartan Sprint** www.arsqrp.blogspot.com Sep 3, 1300Z - See website CWOps Weekly Mini-CWT Tests www.cwops.org/cwt.html Sep 5, 0100Z - Sep 5, 0230Z **QRP Fox Hunt** www.grpfoxhunt.org/summer rules.htm Sep 5, 0145Z - Sep 5, 0215Z NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html Sep 5, 0230Z - Sep 5, 0300Z NS Weekly Sprint www.ncccsprint.com CWops CW Open Sep 6, 0000Z - See website www.cwops.org/cwopen.html Sep 6, 0000Z - Sep 6, 2400Z All-Asian DX Contest www.jarl.org/English Sep 6, 0000Z - Sep 6, 2400Z Russian Radio RTTY WW X www.radio.ru/cq/contest/rule-results/index2.shtml Sep 6, 0600Z - Sep 6, 0800Z, Wake-Up! QRP Sprint http://grp.ru/contest/wakeup/333-wakeup-eng Sep 6, 1100Z - Sep 6, 1700Z DARC 10 Meter Digital "Corona" www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport IARU Region I Field Day Sep 6, 1300Z - Sep 7, 1300Z www.sarl.org.za Sep 6, 1300Z - Sep 6, 1600Z Straight Key Party www.agcw.de/index.php/en/ Ohio State Parks On the Air Sep 6, 1600Z - Sep 6, 2400Z www.ospota.org/ospota/index.php Sep 6, 1600Z - Sep 6, 2400Z Indiana Parks on the Air http://inpota.com/ http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf Sep 7, 0000Z - Sep 7, 0400Z North American Sprint Sep 7, 0000Z - Sep 7, 0600Z 070 Club KA3X Memorial Sprint www.podxs070.com DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest Sep 7, 1100Z - Sep 7, 1700Z www.darc.de Sep 7, 1500Z - See website QRP ARCI Two Sidebands Sprint www.grparci.org/contests Sep 7, 1800Z - Sep 8, 0300Z Tennessee QSO Party www.tnqp.org Sep 12, 0100Z - Sep 12, 0230Z **QRP Fox Hunt** www.grpfoxhunt.org/summer rules.htm Sep 12, 0145Z - Sep 12, 0215Z NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html Sep 13, 0000Z - Sep 13, 2359Z FOC QSO Party www.g4foc.org Sep 13, 0000Z - Sep 14, 2400Z Worked All Europe DX Contest http://waedc.de SARL VHF/UHF Analog/Digital Contest Sep 13, 1000Z - Sep 14, 1000Z www.sarl.org.za Sep 13, 1200Z - Sep 14, 2359Z Straight Key Weekend Sprintathon www.skccgroup.com Sep 13, 1400Z - Sep 14, 0200Z Arkansas QSO Party www.arkqsoparty.com Sep 13, 1800Z - Sep 15, 0259Z ARRL September VHF Contest www.arrl.org/september-vhf Sep 14, 0000Z - Sep 14, 0359Z North American Sprint http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf www.classicexchange.org Sep 14, 1300Z - Sep 15, 0700Z Classic Exchange Sep 14, 1300Z - Sep 14, 1900Z Swiss HTC QRP Sprint www.htc.ch Sep 15, 0100Z - Sep 15, 0300Z Run For the Bacon www.fpgrp.org Sep 18, 0030Z - Sep 18, 0230Z NAQCC Monthly QRP Sprint http://nagcc.info Sep 19, 0145Z - Sep 19, 0215Z NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up Sep 20, 1000Z - Sep 21, 0400Z ARRL 10 GHz Cumulative Contest Sep 20, 1200Z - Sep 21, 1159Z Scandinavian Activity Contest www.sactest.net Sep 20, 1300Z - Sep 21, 1300Z SRT HF Contest SSB www.strangeradioteam.com/SRT-HF-SSB-eng.asp Sep 20, 1400Z - Sep 21, 0300Z South Carolina QSO Party http://scqso.com Sep 20, 1500Z - Sep 21, 0300Z QRP Afield http://newenglandqrp.org/afield Sep 20, 1600Z - Sep 20, 1800Z Feld-Hell Hell on Wheels Sprint www.feldhellclub.org Sep 20, 1600Z - Sep 21, 2400Z Washington State Salmon Run www.wwdxc.org Sep 21, 1300Z - Sep 23, 0700Z Classic Exchange www.classicexchange.org Sep 21, 1700Z - Sep 21, 2100Z **BARTG Sprint 75** www.bartg.org.uk Sep 22, 1100Z - Sep 23, 0300Z 144 MHz Fall VHF Sprint www.svhfs.org Sep 24, 0000Z - Sep 24, 0200Z SKCC Straight Key Sprint www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks Sep 26, 0145Z - Sep 26, 0215Z NCCC RTTY Sprint Ladder www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html Sep 27, 0000Z - Sep 28, 2359Z CQ WW RTTY Contest www.cqwwrtty.com Sep 27, 1200Z - Sep 28, 1200Z Maine QSO Party www.maineqsoparty.com Sep 27, 1400Z - See website Texas QSO Party www.txqp.net Sep 27, 1400Z - Sep 27, 1800Z AGCW VHF/UHF Contest www.agcw.org/index.php/en/ Sep 28, 2000Z - Sep 28, 2200Z Peanut Power Sprint www.nogagrp.org Sep 30, 1100Z - Oct 1, 0300Z 222 MHz Fall VHF Sprint www.svhfs.org

(Control + click to activate a link)

For more information on contests: http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Full information at: http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations

09/01/2014 09/01/2014	Aberdeens of the World West Alexander Fair
09/04/2014	North Carolina Mountain State Fair
09/05/2014	Treasure Island ExPedition
09/06/2014	Cumberland County PA Amateur Radio Club 50th Anniversary Celebration
09/06/2014	Fox Trotters of Missouri Special Event
09/06/2014	Portland Amateur Wireless Association Centennial
09/06/2014	Route 66 On The Air
09/06/2014	World War 1 Centennial Commemoration
09/07/2014	50th Anniversary Laguna Woods Village Retirement Community
09/08/2014	Kansas Preparedness Day
09/10/2014	National POW MIA Recognition Day Special Event Station
09/11/2014	Day out with Thomas 2014
09/12/2014	
09/12/2014	A6th Annual National Hollerin' Contest Battle of Plattsburgh Commemoration
09/12/2014	Old Mulkey Meetinghouse Special Event
09/13/2014	Battle of North Point Bicentennial War of 1812
09/13/2014	Bi-Centennial of the writing of the Star Spangled Banner during the battle of Baltimore
09/13/2014	Celebrating 69 Years of Operating
09/13/2014	Nashville Mini Maker Fair
09/13/2014	SATERN's First International Response - Hurricane Gilbert 1988
09/13/2014	State Line Radio Club Annual Picnic
09/13/2014	USS Midway Commissioning Special Event
09/14/2014	200th Anniversary of the Writing of the Star Spangled Banner
09/14/2014	Battle of Britain Commemorative Station
09/16/2014	Sandwich IL Public Library Grand Opening
09/20/2014	2014 Royal Rangers NJ District Powwow Amateur Radio Event
09/20/2014	80th Anniversary of Nashville Amateur Radio Club
09/20/2014	Grayson County Amateur Radio Club 20th Anniversar
09/26/2014	Northwest Angle Station Activation
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Home on the Range Cabin Rededication and Anniversary of the Writing of the Song

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ARRL MAIN SITE: http://www.arrl.org/home

Long Island East Qualification for US Islands Program

ARRL ATLANTIC DIV.: http://www.atldiv.org

20th Annual Fiesta Sahurita

Everybody's Day

Dempsey Challenge Bicycle Race

09/27/2014

09/27/2014

09/27/2014

09/27/2014

09/27/2014

CONTESTS: http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar

http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/perpetualcal.php

HAMFESTS: http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar

STARS REFLECTOR: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/STARS-WB2ELW/

STARS WEBSITE: http://www.wb2elw.net