

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

President: Tom Atchison - W5TV

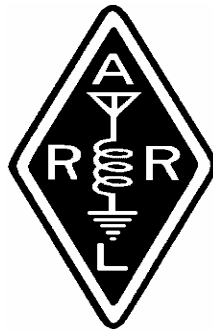
VP: John Chapman - KC5MIB

Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

OCTOBER MINUTES

The October meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on October 4th. Twenty-four members and three guests were present. **President Tom, W5TV**, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Each person present introduced himself. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. Treasurer's report was read.

Several members reported that they had been active during the Texas QSO Party. Band conditions were not the best.



Army, AE5P, discussed the recent change to zulu time on our local UHF repeater. Because of limitations in the clock software, the readout is limited to the standard 12 hour time format, and this does not sound good at all for zulu time. It was moved, seconded, and passed to move the UHF clock back to local time. After further discussion, it was then moved, seconded, and passed to turn off the clock on the UHF repeater completely.

Andy, KE5EXX, discussed the rules for using our local e-mail reflector, Hamlist. Messages are limited to 100K max. Any

problems with Hamlist should be directed to Andy.

November 4th at Camp Purtle will be the annual Boy Scout gathering to work on their radio merit badges. Those willing to assist in this worthy effort should contact **John, N5AIU**.

Skywarn Spotter Training will be held on Thursday, October 12, 6:30 p.m. in the Boynton Building on the SFA Campus. Contact **John, KC5MIB** for more info.

The Shuttle Columbia Special Event is planned for February 3rd, 2007, 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the KC Hall.

Reminder to all that Sweepstakes is coming up in November. Several

stations plan to be active during these events.

President Tom appointed **John, KC5IIT, Army, AE5P,** and **KJ, KK5BE,** to be the nominating committee. They are to report back at our November meeting, at which time we will hold election of officers for 2007. New officers will take office at the December meeting.

A coax access bushing has been installed in the County Emergency Management trailer. Motion made, seconded, and passed to buy 200 feet of LMR400 coax, and a Buddypole mast and tripod for use with the trailer. A limit of \$300 was put on the purchases.

Rusty, KD5GEN, reminded us that a Yaesu FT-8100, power supply and antenna are at the Fire Dept, and suggested we contact the City for permission to use them for the Emergency Trailer or other such use. Another radio came out of the Fire Chief's car. A new Fire Chief has just

been announced. We need to work on him becoming a Ham.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Show and Tell: **Bert, AC5Z** showed his 80M portable noise location antenna. **John, KC5IIT,** showed a fuse distribution panel he plans to use on his mobile. **Marshall, K5QE,** showed the $\frac{1}{2}$ " Superflex Heliac he recently brought back from Denver. **Jerry, K5JLW,** showed a 2M vertical antenna he built from plans in the August 2006 QST. **John, N5AIU,** showed off the beautiful plaque **KD5VVI** received for finishing in first place in the West Gulf Division for School Clubs in the November SweepStakes last year. **Great job John!** **John, KC5MIB,** showed a portable compass/transit used for aligning microwave antennas.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I am delighted to see the cooler weather and the

rain for us in East Texas. The smell of fall is in the air and that means quieter bands on HF, November Sweepstakes, and the possibility of doing some antenna work. I always seem to have some repair work needed on my existing antennas. This is also a good time to experiment with some new ideas regarding antennas.

As a reminder, please mark your calendars for the December 6 Christmas Party meeting of NARC. It will be at our usual meeting place at Christ's Episcopal Church beginning at 7:00 p.m. You need to bring your favorite party food. The Club will provide drinks and plates. Also, we will have our "White Elephant Auction" as usual. Please bring your gift contributions and we will auction them off to raise money for the Club.

See you at the meeting on Wednesday, November 1, at 7:00 p.m.

73 de Tom, W5TV



V.P.'s CORNER...

Wow, throw out a controversial topic and you get the list hopping. I think we got the list out of the doldrums for a few days over the Red Cross's security requirements. I'm afraid in today's society it may turn out to be more fact than an annoyance.

I spent almost 21 years in the military. I have held several security clearances. All of my clearances required some type of background investigation. My last clearance required almost 6 months to get done, not because I was a bad boy but because of where they had to go, all of the interviews which had to be done. My clearance investigations didn't require a financial background check. However, I have acquaintances who have worked for White House Communications Agency or for Air Intelligence

Agency (AIA). The investigations for clearance to work either agency are more extensive still. White House Comm required over a year. Those clearances did require a financial review, why, because it can be real easy to turn some one with money or other financial type gain, especially if they have gotten in over their heads. My friend at AIA doesn't like the financial part of the investigation, but understands the necessity.

It's not so much if you'll steal from us, but will you reveal things you shouldn't. The Walker Case proved that one out; he spilled his guts just for money, no higher thought, no higher ideal, just money. I won't go into the detail of the Walker case, catch me elsewhere to discuss it.

The ARRL Letter had an article about the Red Cross and their background checks. Just in case you glossed over it or missed it then here's the web link back to the ARRL website:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/10/25/1/?nc=1>

Many youth organizations (the Boy Scouts come to mind) require their volunteers and leaders to submit to a background check. An organization I am very familiar with dropped support for a youth organization because the adult leadership of that youth organizations refused to require background checks of the adults involved.

Expect some changes. It's just the way things are going, the parent or served organization will require all of their employees and volunteers to have completed some sort of investigation. If you have a RACES card, you probably have had a state agency check performed. It's coming, they have to protect themselves and we have to protect ourselves.

Let this one simmer on the back burner and see what the league has for us. As

in everything else--be careful what you sign.

73 to all,
John Chapman
e-mail:
jlchapman2@juno.com or
kc5mib@arrl.net

VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15th 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 \$14 to cover the cost of the exam(s). Correct change is always very much appreciated.

TRAINING MATERIALS

The club has purchased several copies of the latest ARRL "Now You're Talking" books, which provides everything a person needs to be able to pass the Technician class Amateur Radio license exam. Anyone may "borrow" one of these books for a \$20 deposit.

When you return the book in good condition, you will get your deposit back. Interested? See **Army, AE5P**.

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 Net on the 147.32 repeater (PL 141.3). Please join us for one or both.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday November 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. This is at the corner of Starr and Mound Streets in Nacogdoches. Hope to see y'all there.

BREAKFAST BUNCH

Mark, W5TXR has organized a Breakfast

Bunch to meet the first Saturday following the NARC general meeting, 8:00 a.m. at IHOP. So, the next meeting of the Breakfast Bunch will be Saturday, November 4th. Hope to see many of you there.

Basic Electronics Part Nine By Thomas Atchison

To be continued next month.