

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

## 2013 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Mike Brown - KF5KEY

VP: John Cechin - W5FWR

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.

## SEPTEMBER MINUTES

The September meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on September 4th. **President Mike KF5KEY**, 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 themselves. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The Treasurer's report was read.

**Army AE5P** reported on the status of the club's

Winlink iGate repeater on the roof of the Fredonia Hotel. Thanks to Tim KE5PQJ it is back in service and now available for service 24/7.

The September VHF contest is coming up the weekend of September 21. WK5F plans to be out in his rover. K5QE will be on the air as a limited Multi-Op, using the 4 lowest bands only.

The Texas QSO Party is scheduled for the weekend of September 28. Army AE5P plans to use the club call at his station and invites all club members to

stop by and operate or just observe.

The Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) will be the weekend of October 19. Stations are asked to participate by working the Boy Scout stations on the air.

The 147.32 repeater continues to experience problems. Army and Rusty plan a trip to the repeater site to attempt a repair.

The Belton swap meet is scheduled for October 5. Several club members are planning to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

**Show and Tell: Jerry K5JLW** showed off his new Baofeng dual band HT. These are available from several retailers for \$40.

**Program: Army AE5P** gave a talk and demonstration of his new Flex-Radio 6700 software defined radio.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I began this month's newsletter, I began to think back on my journey as a ham. There have been quite a few "highs" and "lows" in this trek, and I thought that I would like to share a few with you.

The first "high" was the huge wow-factor that I experienced on visiting Army's shack for the very first time, prior to getting my ticket. I had talked to him on the phone and expressed my interest in amateur radio, and he invited me to visit him at his station....WOW! For someone whose only experience with ham radio was sitting in a converted clothes closet listening to an old Hallicrafter's S20-R receiver that had been salvaged from a junk bin, I was overwhelmed. I especially was impressed by all the Heath kits on the wall shelves. If you haven't been to AE5P's QTH, he has a great collection, and to show how little I knew (know) about ham radio, I thought they

were all Collins units. When I was first getting interested in ham radio, the very ultimate in radio equipment at the time was the Collins. Only the very well-heeled could afford a Collins, and here was a guy who had a whole wall full of them! Army straightened me out regarding Heath vs Collins and showed me the rest of the gear he had around his shack. I asked what radio was his favorite, and he pointed out a very plain looking box about 10" square and informed me that THAT unimpressive little box was the ultimate in radio at the current time. That was my very first introduction to FlexRadio Systems, and I have to admit, after looking at all the other IMPRESSIVE radios with all the knobs, dial, lights, bells, whistles, etc, etc, I wasn't very impressed. You couldn't get me to use one of those things when there were other fabulous, impressive, highly-festooned with knobs, buttons, dials, meters and the like, REAL radios to be had. I didn't

want to hurt this guy's feelings; he seemed like a nice fellow, so I smiled and nodded and went back to looking at the authentic looking ham gear.....

The second "high" was when I finally got on the air for the very first time. It was Field Day, 2010, and we had just set up the stations in the FEMA trailer at the airport. I managed to more or less stay out of the way and watched nervously as the various hams would make contact after contact. Dr. Tom and Army roped me into their area and said, "Go to it!" I could barely speak I was so nervous, especially in front of such experts, but after a few minutes, I actually made a contact, put it into the logbook, and I was hooked. From that point on, I began to study all things ham....

The third "high" was purchasing my first transceiver. Jerry Wilson was helping the widow of a silent key sell his gear, and he let me take home a couple of transceivers to

try out. I really didn't know what I was doing, but I strung a long wire and listened to the various meter bands. I then took the radio I wanted to buy, an ICOM 756 (a REAL radio with knobs and such), over to Army's, and he checked it out for me and gave me some do's and don't's about the unit. At the next NARC meeting, I bought it from Jerry and was on my way to hamdom.

The next "high" was studying for my ticket. The more that I learned, the more excited I got. I couldn't wait until the next VE session. I was gonna be a ham, after all those years of wanting and waiting, I was gonna be a ham.

The next "high" was taking the Technician and the General class exams on the same night and passing them both. I couldn't wait to get my hands on a radio and get on the air. I bought an HT and when Monday night rolled around, I checked in to the ARES/RACES net for the first time. I didn't

know what I was doing, I didn't have the procedures down right, I didn't know my grid square, and the other guys could hardly understand me, but I was on the air!

Kinda....

Next "high:" Putting up my G5RV. I had read about how the hams just rolled up to a potential site, threw up one end of the wire to one tree and the other end up another; attach the coax to the antenna and the transceiver and within 10-15 minutes, were on the air....I obviously was NOT one of THOSE hams. After a mere day and a half of fighting trees, limbs, leaves, wire, strings, ladder line, pass throughs, surge protectors, lightening ground rods, RF toroids, ground straps, copper plating, etc, etc, etc, I had an antenna connected to my ICOM 756. I was sure glad that I used a simple antenna like the G5RV...I would probably still be installing a complex one. Did you notice that

this high was not quite as high as some of the previous ones?

Next "high" was the infinite pleasure of actually making contacts across the state, across the nation, around the world. After all those years of waiting, I was finally making the kind of contacts that I had only dreamed about. The first contact was inside Texas on 40 meters at 7.195. A really nice bunch of guys who made me feel welcome to the hobby. After each contact, I would run to my poor XYL and shout, "I had a contact with San Antonio!! About 300 miles!!" She would congratulate me and I would be off again. (me) "Hey, babe! I just talked to West Virginia!!" (her) "That's great dear." (me) Can you believe it, I just talked to New York!!! (her) That's nice. (me) Holy S--T! I just talked to British Columbia!! (her) That's swell...watch your mouth, dear. (me) Europe!! Euro

pell!! I talked to Europe!!! (her-with slight grumbling) That's wonderful, and could you shut the door, please? I'm trying to listen to the TV." (me) TV! TV! Who cares about TV...the damn thing's obsolete, I'm talking to the Island of Svalbard!!! (her) If you don't close the door, I'm calling my attorney!! She obviously isn't getting her license anytime soon....

All kidding aside, we have a wonderful hobby. I have spent many fascinating hours talking around the world, working various contests and QSO parties, talking to kids in schools whose teachers are hams, special event stations, and on and on and on. There is really no end to this hobby. There are a world of nice folks to encounter and an occasional grouch or two, but that's fun too. For all you who have helped me make my way in ham radio, I can't thank you enough. And for any of you that I might be able to help in any way, please feel free to call. If I

don't answer right away, you might try me on the radio...

Thanks to all of you and 73

KF5KEY - Mike

Email:

[michaelleebrown@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelleebrown@hotmail.com)

## MY 2 CENTS FOX WILLY ROGER

**October:** this is the morning after our club meeting and I got to thinking about the program and what a program it was. Once more AE5P has come thru with a program that left everyone on the edges of their seats, it was spectacular thanks ARMY, thank you very much. One thing I did notice was that the FLEX 6700 did have a knob, so you didn't get away from knobs altogether.

ARMY had given a report on the TX QSO PARTY, and the fact that nobody seems to rove ETX that is from ETX, then he looked at me, I still don't know what that was all about.

When I got home I googled EAST TEXAS. That was like asking for a drink of water, tap or bottled, spring or filtered, sparkling or plane, cold or room temp, well you get the idea. One site even had ETX from Canada to South America and from coast to coast, not including CA, after a few more web sites I wanted to confirm the Canada to SA but was never able to relocate it let alone print it out. I did however, find a few maps showing ETX from Oklahoma to the Gulf and westward to Dallas, but even the map was unsure about some of these counties, so now where does that leave me? In the AM's a radio program has an insert that starts "YOU KNOW WHAT MAKES ME MAD" and ends with "WAKE UP AMERICA".

Well here is my you know what makes me mad. The other day I was taking apart an old table saw, I wanted the motor and blade assembly. I got started with the Phillips screws OK and got the

table almost off when it occurred to me that this saw had metric fasteners, the last ones to complete my task. Needless to say I spent about an hour or so finishing up the job. WAKE UP AMERICA, when is it going to happen when we as a people figure out that we are being had, I am tired of having two sets of tools, one for the good old American Made Goods and one set for foreign items. If these countries want our money, let them use standard American fasteners, why is that too much to ask? What has happened to the great products we used to produce?

#### WAKE UP AMERICA

Well I checked the hat and found that no one had given W5TV some help with his quest, I am lucky that the hat was attached to the table or I might have wandered off, come on people Dr. Tom needs our help, he is ready to help us!

When I retired I told myself that I would work

on some important things. One of these things was a belief that if a person had plenty of lighter than air substance that when he or she fell they would float down, but if the balance was in the other direction he or she goes up. Sunday evening was the test run, or should I say test fall, I fell hard down to the floor, no floating, and no hovering just a straight down fall. I am in the process of trying to figure out what went wrong; I may call on you math guys to check my figures. While I am on math, why is it the math line starts with a zero at the X Y. how come it doesn't start with a Five, and why is a 5 called a Five, why isn't it called Jam or something else?

How come?

The soap box is for rent, make checks out to W5TV. 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)

### VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for Wednesday, October 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](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 October 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. Please come join us and bring a friend.