

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

## 2015 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: 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.



## AUGUST MINUTES

The August meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on August 5th. **President John W5FWR**, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in a meeting room at First Baptist Church. Twelve members were present. Each person present introduced themselves. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The Treasurer's report was read.

### Old Business:

**NAQP-CW. Bob K5ME** reported 353 Q's with 135 multipliers in 7 hours of

operation. **Army AE5P** said he just played.

**Robert KD5FEE** reported receiving a very nice QSL card confirming his contacts with the 13 Colonies Special Event stations.

### New Business:

Discussion held on Blue Bell Ice Cream and their continuing difficulties with Listeria. Many are anxious for their return to the market.

**Field Day 2016. Jim WA5GVQ** has started the ball rolling to see NARC have a Field Day event next year. It will require member participation to resurrect what many regard as the best operating event in ham radio. Plan to get involved!

Discussion on the Shuttle Columbia Special Event Station operation for 2016. It was decided to hold the event and to use the special call K5C again. More information to follow.

Meeting closed at 7:53 p.m.

**Program: Army AE5P** discussed the CQ VHF contest in July in which AE5P, WK5F and WD5RAH operated as Rovers. All reported having a great time of it. Army then passed on Ralph's suggestion that the club hold a similar event in September, coincident with the ARRL Sept. VHF contest. The plan is make this a fun operating event rather than a contest, with operation between club rovers using HT's on FM with a maximum of just 4 bands. Seven members indicated their intent to participate: **W5FWR, WA5GVQ, W5TV, WK5F, KF5ZPV, KC4LUY, and AE5P.** More details later in this newsletter.

## MY 2 CENTS FOX WILLY ROGER

### SEPTEMBER 2015:

September is here, and I for one am happy that fall has arrived, I say fall because the leaves are falling off my trees, even TWT. September is also my birth month, the 21<sup>st</sup> to be exact.

A month or so ago some SOB ran into my car in a parking lot. I now have a good sized dent on my right rear quarter panel. Have no fear, I found a product at the W store. It's called FIXODENT. Well I'm here to tell you, it don't work. I rubbed it onto the dent and nothing happened, in fact I used a second tube, and still nothing.

The Wednesday night no-net net "**H&W, TTTMO, or HWtriple T MO**" had a big call in. upwards of twenty hams checked in and un loaded all kinds responses were recorded and promptly discarded, almost like being married,

without having to look out for the rebound from the XYL's.

The program:

I plan to show off a roving go-box to the group, remember I have roved with AE5P before, and the things I'll be showing you will be the basic items you will need. AE5P will then go over the correct procedures for making contacts, and fun was had by all. Army has told me that he has marked off not only the eating places, but also the bathrooms as well, along with a bunch of other important locations. Army has also gotten a door prize for the rover with the best score, so come join in the fun.

The **Blue Bell IC** plant in Georgia is once more in production, at present they are stock piling **IC** at different locations waiting for the **FDA** to give them the go, so you all will have to wait just a bit longer.

It has been reported to me that the 84 repeater is on the mend, thanks to **N5YA** and his sidekick,

Tonto, now the 84 repeater is back in action, I think.

The latest QST page 92 has an account of our buddy in California with his latest record setting trip, good reading. And some good reading starting on pg. 65 on organizing events, a lot of things most of us don't think of or knew what was going behind the scene.

More spaces make for a longer column, "Jack Taldi". As you can see, as with the last time and the time before that I am using more spaces, this system seems to work well for me, so why not use it till it drops, and it hasn't dropped yet?

#### PHASE II.V.V:....

I have some sad news, it is sad for me, **GRAY BABY** has gone walk-a-bout from the first of the month, and all I have left for the outside cats are **LG, MAX, VISITER, TUFF- GUY,** and **GHOST.** If you remember, I have named the kitten that's

the offspring of **Visitor** and **Tuff-Guy; Max,** and at this time, comes when I call and almost lets me pet her, at **least** I think it's a female. **MAX** has taken to hiding in the REDBUD tree with her mouth open, I think she thinks she's a bird house and a bird will lose its way and fly into her mouth. **Ghost** is still around, he got into a fight a bit back but now she is walking better. I haven't gotten the pictures of my cats for you yet, but I'm working on it, I know all of you want to have a picture of the cats I live with, I am working on it, if I can keep the camera from shacking, I must have gotten a bad camera.

CU loves to get her back scratched, I will start scratching her back and her head will start bobbing up and down, and will keep doing this as long as I am scratching her back. Now when I scratch her back her head not only bobs but her tongue starts poking in and out, the longer I scratch the more the head bobs and the tongue jets

in and out, a sight to behold.

I have noticed that when you make an area for a cat, she/he won't use it. I have tried and lost the fight, so now I just let them do their stuff. I tried arranging some reading material to sort through; well there it was all stacked on the table. I went in to get a drink, knowing it would be dry work, and when I returned the stack was all shoved onto the floor, and TB was now taken over that location. That was about 6 months ago, I have repeated the stacking many times, but to no avail, I will just have to wait for TB to find another spot.

**THOUSANDS OF YEARS  
AGO CATS WERE  
WORSHIPED AS GODS,  
THEY HAVE NEVER  
FORGOTTEN THIS**

#### WHY IS IT?

Instant Rice, you still have to cook it, I don't understand it.

Gun Dog does that the Dog has a CLH and if so where

is the Dog going to hide the gun?

Raining cat and dogs, come on now, has any one of seen it rain cats and dogs, if bring the picture with you to the club meeting, and it better not be fuzzy. Now that we are on the subject of rain, what's this deal about "a frog strangler" how can you strangle a frog, it's an amphibian, get with the program.

I keep asking these questions and don't get any answers, just remember, you might be the next president and you will have to show the way and ask these questions.

**HMMMM**

### **GREAT INVENTIONS OF ALL TIME:**

The automobile key, gone are the days of remembering which way the key goes into the lock. I can remember happy days standing in the rain fumbling with the auto key because I started with the key upside down, tell me those weren't the good old days!

The rain that my house and yard had yesterday afternoon didn't help **TWT** all that much. This **NL** was put together with fallen dried word leaves, **TWT** is still tired and hot, and I thank you all for tuning in and remember to shop our spongers.

Its Army's, John's, Dr Tom's, and others turn to fill in all the blank spaces.

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

Happy Trails

73 Enjoy, what do you think, let me know?

John Cechin W5FWR

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

## **NOTES FROM OUR EC**

Piney Woods Purgatory is coming, 3 October 2015 . This has been an annual event based in Lufkin with 4 courses for bicycle enthusiasts and racers.

The longest loop is 102 miles and goes through Alto, Atoy, Douglass, Alazan, Pollock, Central and back into Lufkin.

Megan Glass, KB5MEG is working on the list of folks to help. They will need:  
12 rest stop radio operators  
12 SAG wagon radio operators  
2 Net control operators at the Lufkin Expo Center.  
More always helps.

As of this writing, they only have 5 volunteers. The hams typically meet at 6:00 am at the IHOP in Lufkin (sound familiar?), get their shirts if available and their final assignments. A meal is normally available at the Expo Center after the race if you go back to Lufkin after your position closes.

The race will start at 8:00 a.m. Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>

Why support it? It's a good public service/community event, Cell phones don't work in the deep woods as we

already know and contrary to what the cell phone providers tell you, been there done that-NARC has had a presence when radios were needed throughout the Piney Woods (think Columbia). It will also give us an opportunity to dust off remote operations similar to Field Day without the contest atmosphere. We have assisted before with operators and have linked our repeaters with Lufkin to improve coverage.

One other reason, Lufkin Visitors bureau is hoping to make the race a USA Cycling sanctioned event. They will need the support to make this work and work well. The Hotter n Hell Hundred in Wichita Falls is a USAC sanctioned event. This will mean real racers coming to town for national points.

If you can help, please contact Megan Glass, KB5MEG, mglass0807@gmail.com You can also find more information at <http://www.pineywoodspurgatory.com/>

Don't forget our regular nets and we'll see you on the air,

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

### VOA Radiogram

5745 kHz Saturday 0930-1000 UTC  
17870 kHz Saturday 1600-1630 UTC  
5745 kHz Sunday 0230-0300 UTC  
15670 kHz Sunday 1930-2000 UTC

### VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16 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 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.

The actual operating frequency for each net is at the discretion of the net control operator. The Monday night nets have been meeting recently on the club 444.050 UHF repeater or the 147.32 VHF repeater. Stay alert to other possibilities such as a simplex frequency or even HF.

### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **Wednesday September 2nd** at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church.

Construction is completed and we are now able to return to our normal meeting location. Come join us.

## SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OPERATING EVENT

After several members had so much fun in July with the CQ VHF contest, it has been suggested we do a special operating event during the ARRL VHF contest in September, but to concentrate on having fun and making it as simple as possible, especially for newer hams. Welcome to the NARC September Special Operating Event (NARC SSOE).

We plan to caravan from Nacogdoches to Texarkana Saturday morning, Sept. 12, arriving in Texarkana at noon. In keeping with the fun part of this, we'll start with lunch. The event gets underway at 1 p.m. and will involve each participant making contact with every other participant on a

maximum of 4 different bands: 50, 144, 222, and 440. All contacts will be on FM, and because of the short distances involved, just a simple HT is all the radio that will be needed. Kind of hate to agree with WK5F, but a Yaesu VX-7 HT is the perfect radio for this, as it can work all 4 of these bands. If you have or can borrow one of these great, but if you don't have one, don't worry. If all you have is a 2M HT, use it. The primary idea here is to have fun.

Several of the group will also have multi-mode radios and horizontal loop antennas and will doing our best to contact other stations not a part of our group on SSB and CW. You are also welcome to do the same.

After making our contacts in Texarkana, we'll drive down the new I-49 highway to Shreveport and make our next stop at the Flying J truck stop in Greenwood for another round of contacts. From there we'll move to a spot just north of Tenaha on Hwy 59 for

more contacts, and then back to Nacogdoches for the night.

Sunday, we plan to drive down to Jasper for more contacts (and maybe lunch?) then up to Bronson (look it up on a map) for our final stop for contacts. We should be finished and back to Nacogdoches by early afternoon.

We look forward to a pleasant weekend with great scenery, good food, wonderful company, and a chance to learn some new things to do with your ham radio. Wives, girlfriends (but not both, unless of course your girlfriend is your wife) are welcome to come along.

We have 7 club members signed up right now, but there is room for more. However, due to some logistics issues, it is most important that we hear from you no later than Wednesday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup> if you want to join us.

73 de Army AE5P

[ae5p@suddenlink.net](mailto:ae5p@suddenlink.net)

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE

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

### ARRL September VHF Contest

1800Z, Sep 12 to 0300Z,  
Sep 14

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

### Texas QSO Party

1400Z, Sep 26 to 0200Z,  
Sep 27 and

1400Z-2000Z, Sep 27

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

### CQ WW DX SSB

0000Z, Oct 24 to 2400Z,  
Oct 25

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

### ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW

2100Z, Nov 7 to 0300Z,  
Nov 9

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

### ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB

2100Z, Nov 21 to 0300Z,

Nov 23

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

### CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW

0000Z, Nov 28 to 2400Z,  
Nov 29

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

### ARRL 160M Contest, CW

2200Z, Dec 4 to 1600Z,  
Dec 6, 2015

<http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

### ARRL 10M Contest, CW/SSB

0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z,  
Dec 13

<http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

### ARRL Rookie Roundup CW

1800Z-2359Z, Dec 20,  
2015

<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

## CHOKE BALUNS

By

Thomas Atchison, W5TV

The purpose of a choke balun on a coaxial feedline is to help eliminate common mode currents from flowing on the outside of the shield. In previous articles we have discussed the merits of using a choke balun. We now consider how to create a choke balun to reduce these common mode currents. This is accomplished by presenting a high impedance to RF currents on the outside of our coaxial feedline. One of the simplest ways of accomplishing this is to wrap several turns of the coaxial feedline around a PVC form AT THE FEED POINT of the antenna (Fig. 1)



Fig. 1

For the HF bands you should wind several feet (15-20) of coax around a 5 inch diameter form. The diameter and the number of turns isn't critical. The coax should be wound in a single layer and as close together as possible. It can be held in place with nylon cable ties. As I mentioned in a previous article, this coil creates a high impedance to common mode currents on the outside of the coax but it does not impede the RF signals inside the coax.

For higher frequencies you may use less coax to accomplish your purpose. For example, on my 2 meter J-pole I have 5 turns of coax around a 2 inch in diameter piece of PVC at the base of the J-pole. This seems to work very well.

Another way to reduce common mode current on the feed line is to wind several turns of coax like you would wind a rope. This is sometimes called scramble winding. The coil should be 6 to 8 inches in diameter and it can be secured with electrical tape. Fig. 2 shows such a coil being used with a J-pole antenna.



Fig. 2

The impedance of a choke balun may be increased by winding coils of wire around a ferrite torroid form. There are many different core materials, shapes, and sizes for such ferrite forms. If we choose a suitable core material, size, and shape and vary the number of turns and the spacing we can cover the required frequency range with our balun (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3

When a conductor is passed through the center of a ferrite bead, the impedance goes up with the square of the number of passes through the center. This gain in impedance reduces the length of coax that is needed to create the choke balun.

A good source of information concerning this type of choke balun can be found in an article by Jim Brown, K9YC, entitled "Measuring Ferrite Choke Impedance". If you have a copy of the 2015 ARRL Handbook this article is found on the book's CD-ROM. If

not, you can search for the author or call sign on-line. You can also find numerous kits on-line that will permit you to wind your own choke baluns.