

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2016 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 and have fun.



OCTOBER MINUTES

The October meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on October 5th. **President John W5FWR** opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Fifteen members and four guests were present. Each person present introduced himself. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The Treasurer's report was read.

Contests: Texas QSO Party saw several club members active including

Army AE5P, Tom W5TV, Ralph WD5RAH and John W5FWR. Band conditions, at least on 40 meters, were the worst seen in many years, but it was still fun.

Cultural Improvement - John W5FWR made us all aware of Alexander Graham Bell Pulaski, the first telephone pole.

Special Event Stations - NARC will sponsor two Special Event Stations next year, the first on February 4-5 for the Space Shuttle Columbia memorial using the call **K5C**, and on April 21-23 for San Jacinto Day using the call **K5J**.

Piney Woods Purgatory was host to 450 bicycle riders this year, with communications provided by our friends in DETARC.

Several NARC members provided assistance including Dale K5BDD, John KC5MIB, RM K5AGE, Army AE5P, Robert KD5FEE, Bob K5ME, and Andy KE5EXX.

Meeting closed at 7:50 p.m.

MY 2 CENTS FOX WILLY ROGER

NOVEMBER 2016:

November is apparently vacation time, or at least late October is. Our fearless leader (and cat person) is taking a break from his newsletter column.

Expect to see the column in next month's newsletter however, lest our favorite cat person gain a new title of 'Slacker'. He would become 'Slacker 4' according to numbers 1, 2 and 3 who shall remain nameless here.

NOTES FROM OUR EC

It's supposed to be Fall, but it sure doesn't seem like it. The days have been warmish and nights coolish (how do quantify ish). It sure beats the 90-100+ days we had over the summer.

The Hurricane season will end 30 November and according to my reading, about average so far as the number of storms, but the deadliet since 2005 with 1737 deaths. The Texas Gulf Coast has been lucky this season. There have only been 3 tracks in the Gulf of Mexico and none close to Texas. Be that as it may, the season isn't over just yet. So don't put away your hurricane equipment.

The Chinese multi-band radios seem to making quite the splash. Inexpensive (I won't say cheap, yet), quickly available but awkward to program unless you have the programming cable and software.

Why bring this up? A couple of reasons. First, Roger KOYY will be reprising his APRS presentation. The radios are inexpensive, so you can experiment with strapping an APRS unit or a WINLINK unit to the radio. OR since they are cheap (there I said it) you can have a couple of extra radios available in your go-kit, goodie bag or bag of tricks.

AND speaking of experimenting--how many of you have an old 2m FM mobile unit that sorta works? Sorta meaning it doesn't have tone encoding? Have you thought about hanging an APRS unit from that?

Dates and events to remember: **6 Nov 2 AM Local**, Daylight Savings time ends, sleep in for an extra hour (check the smoke detector batteries), Baseball World Series-various dates **2 November** if a Game 7 is needed, **11 November**-Veteran's day, **24 November**-Thanksgiving Day, have you bought your bird yet?

(avoid the rush), **30 November**-official end of the 2016 Hurricane Season and of course every Monday and Thursday at 8PM Local Time (2000 hrs for you 24 hour types) the NARC ARES and Skywarn nets respectively.

73 de John Chapman
KC5MIB
jlchapman2@juno.com

VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for Wednesday, November 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

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.

NEXT MEETING

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

VE TEST RESULTS

Jack KG5POU passed his General exam and upgraded from Tech which he received just last month. Congratulations Jack.

We also had two new folks pass their Technician exams, but they have not yet been issued callsigns.

Congratulations to all.

CONTESTING FOR NEW AND OLD

There has been a remarkable new development in the contesting world: a contest simulator that works in CW, SSB, RTTY, and PSK. If your contesting interest is CW, there has been an excellent simulator available for some time now with Morse Runner (<http://www.dxatlas.com/morserunner/>) and it's free to boot. If your CW skills are a little weak, Morse Runner is a great way to improve them.

Now comes a new contest simulator that can handle CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK modes. And it's free also, but you might want to buy

a copy of the logging program it works with.

Wayne Wright, W5XD, is the author of WriteLog, a contest logging program that is arguably the best RTTY logger available. Some years back, I used WriteLog for RTTY contesting and it worked very well.

Wayne, who lives in Round Rock, has continued to improve and update WriteLog, and now has a contest simulator that works with it. You can check it out at <https://writelog.com/> where you can download a free copy of his Contest Super Simulator (CSS) along with a free demo copy of WriteLog. To buy the full version of WriteLog is only \$30.

CSS has support for the ARRL Sweepstakes contest, the CW version of which comes up the weekend of November 5th, followed by the SSB version on November 19th.

So, if you want to try your hand at contesting which is

an excellent way to improve your operating skills, here is a way to practice BEFORE you get on the air. I'm not aware of any other way to do this on SSB and RTTY.

The usual disclaimers apply here.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE

Mark your calendars for the following events coming up in the next few months. Full information on these events and much more can be found at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

ARRL Sweepstakes CW

November 5 – 7

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

ARRL Sweepstakes SSB

November 19 -21

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

CQ WW DX Contest CW

November 26 - 27

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

ARRL 160 Meter Contest CW

December 2 - 3

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

ARRL 10 Meter Contest CW/SSB

December 10 - 11

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

Technical Topics
by
Thomas Atchison, W5TV

This column is taking a well-deserved rest this month. Look for its return next month.