

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2018 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: RM Blake - K5AGE

Vice Pres: Jack York - KG5POU

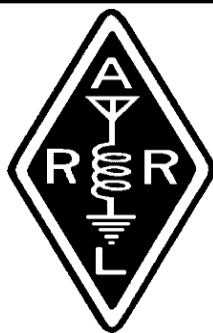
Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

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 having fun.



FEBRUARY MINUTES

The February meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on February 7th. Vice-President Jack KG5POU opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Nine members were present. Each person present introduced them self. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The Treasurer's report was read.

Army AE5P gave a report on the Space Shuttle Columbia Special Event

operation held the weekend of February 3 - 4. The special call sign of K5C was assigned to NARC for the event. A complete report can be found later in this newsletter.

Report made on the January VHF contest held the weekend of January 20. Three members entered the contest as rovers, travelling to six different grid squares. Propagation was not very good so scores were down.

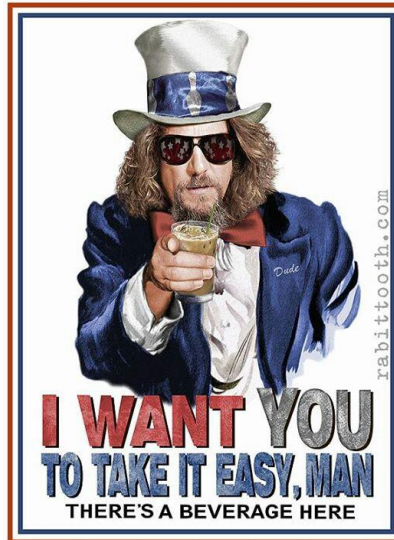
Many operating events are coming up in the next several weeks. See the listing in this newsletter.

Meeting closed at 8:03 p.m.

2018 DUES ARE DUE

Dues are still just \$24 a year and cover all licensed hams in a family. If you have not yet paid, you can bring your dues to the next meeting, to any of the weekly NARC lunches at Clear Springs Café, or mail them to AE5P. Checks should be made out to NARC.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



"Mess Kit" for Texas State Parks On The Air or Car Camping

Over the years of camping at various state and national parks, I have assembled a mess kit for a group of 4-7 campers. With the Texas State Parks on the Air coming up next month, I thought some might be interested in organizing a mess kit that fits conveniently in a plastic tote.

- Plastic Tote - 26" Long , 20" Tall, 17" Wide

- ½ Gallon White Gas Stored In a Pair of MSR Safety Fuel bottles & Extra Mantles
- Pair of Dual Mantle White Gas Lanterns
- 3 Burner Camp Stove with 19" Griddle/Grill
- 12" Skillet & Spatula
- Pair of ½ Gallon Pots
- Small Bottle of Dish Soap
- Can opener!
- Paper Towels, Dish Rags, Small Scrubber and Heavy Trash Bags
- Box of Plastic Cutlery and Paper Plate (Campers are encouraged to bring personal eating utensils and plate to cut down on trash)
- Emergency Items - Iodine Tablets, Small Hatchet, Lighter Fluid, Matches & Lighter, Road Flare, Flashlight & Headlamp
- Combination Salt, Pepper, Garlic, etc.
- Leather gloves serve multiple uses (oven mitt, cold

hands, chopping wood, etc.)

That's about all I can fit in my tote. One thing to consider is weight. If this is too unwieldy, separate the stove/s, fuel, and lanterns into a separate tote. My favorite thing about this is it stays packed and neatens up my spare closet. Also, when I decide to go camping where I can take these luxuries, it is big time saver to have all this ready to go and neat. I hope this inspired some to get out and enjoy the amazing parks we are so blessed to have.

73 de RM Blake K5AGE
k5age@fastmail.com

From the VP Chair

YAESU

A short story

To those who favor Yaesu this story is for you. Courtesy of KD9LA let me pass on some fun info. "Yaesu" is a word that is a name for a radio company but also a commercial / merchant district in Tokyo, Japan and a relation to a man named Jan Joosten van Lodensteyn.

During the 16th century, Jan was exploring trade routes and shipwrecked in the Japanese archipelago and then was captured by a local war lord. With ingenuity and wisdom he was able to build a trade group of "Red Seal" ships that became the only legal trade ships and represented a more centralized Japan. Jan became very successful and was recognized by the government by the title of Samurai.

In the 1950's Sako Hasegawa, JA1MP, started with a TV repair shop and grew his business into a ham radio business. With that change the name of the company was also changed to Yaesu. The Yaesu name had its significance in where the new factory was built; the name of the district where it was located.

So ...

the Yaesu radio is named for the Avenue that runs through the commercial district which is named for the explorer and tradesman Jan Joosten van Lodensteyn which is the western spelling of "Yan Yazoo" which is the Japanese pronunciation of "Jan Joosten". Whew! That was a mouthful.

73 de Jack York
 KG5POU
gtjakco@yahoo.com

NOTES FROM OUR EC

February has been pretty good to us. We have received about 7 1/2 inches of rain and the temps haven't been bad either. With all the rain, I now need to harvest my weeds soon. At least we didn't have any of the flooding (other than Attoyac Bayou) or the tornadoes that have hit other states. This seemed to be a repeat of last year's tornadoes.

I have previously mentioned the ARRL is working on some changes to the ARES program. I've asked Army to include the Amateur Resource Guide Rev 20A form. It has the recommend equipment/materials resource guide for different ARES missions. Yes it has that very formal look to it. Please take some time to review it. It's 2 pages, but it has a lot of information. Sorry they didn't set up the form to be electronically completed.

Other forms that are listed in the resource guide are available on the W5NAC website. You can also download the ARRL message form and instructions from the ARRL.

Please take some time to review all the above. Other training will follow. For the last number of years we've been lucky. Last year we were not tasked to provide support, but that could change at any time. Can you deploy?

We haven't had any Skywarn training in quite a long time. Who is interested?

Remember to check into ARES Net at 8:00 pm local (2000 hrs for you 24 hour guys) Monday nights and our Skywarn net also at 8:00 pm local Thursday nights.

Repeaters:
146.84 (-), PL 141.3
147.32, (+) PL 141.3
444.050, (+) PL 141.3

73 de John Chapman
KC5MIB
jlchapman2@juno.com

VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for **Wednesday March 21 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

NEW HAMS

Our VE exams in February produced three new hams. Congratulations to Fletcher Christian KG5YMZ from Stonewall, LA, Steven Schuler KG5YMY from Mooringsport, LA and Tim Evans KG5YNA from Huntington, TX.

TWO METER CLUB NETS

Remember to join us each week for the two 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.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **Wednesday March 7th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. A program presented by Tom W5TV is planned as well as some interesting show and tell.

SHUTTLE SPECIAL EVENT

Our annual Space Shuttle Columbia Special Event operation was held the weekend of February 3 - 4 for the 15th year in a row. This year will go down as the best ever in terms of participation. As we have done in previous years, members were given the opportunity to participate in the special event from their home stations. All participants were able to use the special call K5C. This year nine members participated, a new record! Many thanks to **Ray W5NRF, Tom W5TV, Rusty KD5GEN, Roger KOYY, Robert KD5FEE, Army AE5P, Jack KG5POU, Bob K5ME, and Ralph N6RH.** A total of 789 contacts were logged using phone, CW, and FT8. All contacts were posted to Logbook of the World (LOTW) and just over 70 QSL cards have been received. The cards continue to trickle in.

Many thanks to all who participated. From the remarks I have received, all operators had fun, and that was one of the main goals for the special event. I'm betting everyone also managed to learn some new lessons and improve their skills as a radio operator.

Remember we have a chance to do this again for the upcoming San Jacinto Day Special Event the weekend of April 21. We will be using the special callsign K5T for that event. New QSL cards have been printed and received. Start planning now to spend a little time that weekend on the air.

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.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

Items in RED are NARC Club Events

ARRL INTL DX - SSB
Mar 3-4

CQ WW WPX - SSB
Mar 24-25

Texas State Parks on the Air (TSPOTA)

SAN JACINTO DAY SPECIAL EVENT

Apr 21-22

K5T

CQ WW WPX - CW
May 26-27

ARRL JUNE VHF
June 9-10

ARRL Field Day
June 23-24

IARU HF
July 14-15

North American QSO Party, RTTY
July 21

CQ VHF CONTEST
July 21-22

North American QSO Party, CW
Aug 4

North American QSO Party, SSB
Aug 18

ARRL September VHF
Sept 8-9

Texas QSO Party
Sept 29-30

CQ WW DX - SSB
Oct 27-28

ARRL Sweepstakes - CW
Nov 3-4

ARRL Sweepstakes - SSB
Nov 17-19

CQ WW DX - CW
Nov 24-25

ARRL 10 Meter
Dec 8-9

Introduction to Diodes

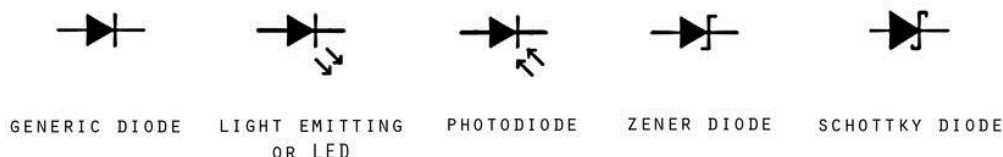
by

Thomas Atchison, W5TV

Diodes are used in amateur radio in many places. Most of us don't think about them very much; however, diodes are in most of our equipment. Suppose we take a look at a few types of diodes and how they are used.

The following brief little table shows a few of the diodes that you might encounter. The appropriate symbol that would be used in a schematic diagram is also displayed.

IDENTIFYING THE DIODE YOU NEED FOR YOUR CIRCUIT

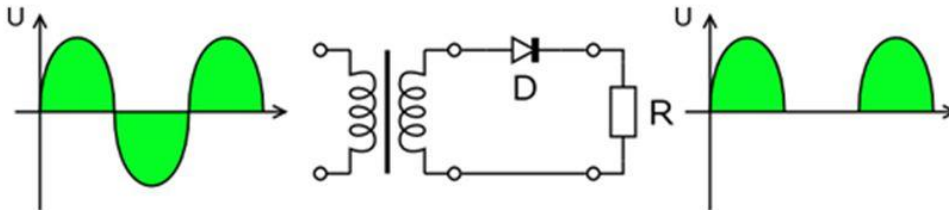


The most popular application of a diode is its use for *rectification*. A **rectifier** is an electrical device that converts alternating current (AC), which periodically reverses direction, to direct current (DC), which flows in only one direction. The process is known as rectification.

To accomplish rectification we make use of the fact that a generic diode allows current flow in only one direction. Because of this, generic diodes are sometimes called rectifier diodes.

In half wave rectification, either the positive or negative half of the AC wave is passed easily, while the other half is blocked, depending on the polarity of the rectifier. Because only one half of the input waveform reaches the output, it is very inefficient if used for power transfer. Half-wave rectification can be achieved with a single diode. For example, consider the following circuit:

Half wave rectification



If we input an alternating current as shown on the left side of the above diagram, the output is shown on the right side. This output is obviously pulsating direct current.

There are several other, more efficient ways of converting an alternating current to a direct current. You can use two diodes and produce a **full wave rectifier** or you can use four diodes to produce a **bridge rectifier**. You may want to explore circuits like these by searching the key words used.

The diodes shown in the table above are briefly discussed below.

A **Light Emitting Diode** or **LED** is probably the most well known and most easily identified. The LED emits light when electrons jump across the PN junction of the diode. The resulting light is referred to as electroluminescence.

Photo diodes conduct only when they are exposed to light. These can be useful in making projects with a light activated switch. That is, photo diodes conduct in the presence of light.

Zener diodes are designed to conduct in the reverse direction, when something called the *breakdown voltage* is reached.

Schottky diodes are designed to turn on and off very rapidly when a certain breakdown voltage is reached. These provide a quick response in digital circuits.

Diodes can be used to protect a current-sensitive circuit. A device that uses batteries will likely contain a diode that protects it when a battery is inserted improperly. The diode will stop the reversed current from traveling from the battery to the rest of the circuit. If you have a radio that requires 12 - 14 volts DC, you can use this technique to protect it from improperly connecting the + and - leads.

This has been a very brief introduction to diodes; however, I hope it will prompt you to explore these devices further.

**MY TWO CENTS
FOX WILLY ROGER**

MARCH 2018

Well what do you know, its March already, with it comes warmer weather, I hope! I see the spring signs all over town, the Dogwoods are in full bloom along with many other sorts of trees, beautiful sights, if you haven't noticed the changes take time and enjoy. In the last NL I reported to you about the rabbit meal, it was better than a thanksgiving feast. I have a second bag in the freezer waiting just for me to eat the meat and the bones for the cats to finish off. The only thing is finding a different way to prepare this great gift, I want it to be just right, I don't know about you but I get tired of same old, same old.

I like to have something ice cold, so I purchase some cool pops and place a few of them at a time in the freezer, this last bag I got won't freeze, I've had them in the freezer for over three weeks. I was just about to call a repair person for a look-see. I spoke too soon about the weather, long john time again.

QUESTION:

Why is it that when it gets cold the monitor on your dash tells you that your tires need air, where does the air go?

Why is it the second cup of coffee doesn't taste as good as the first?

Why is it that if there is only one pothole in the roadway, you will find it?

The word tree opened a branch the other day and looked around, just to check things out, there might be hope for it yet.

REMEMBER:

Remember 5-cent coffee, cokes or payphones?

Remember cars with back seats?

Remember when everybody had rugs and the only way to clean them was to haul them outside and beat them?

COMMENTARY:

What the HELL is going on with the government?

So many things I don't know where to start this month's column, I can't remember when the last time that happened. I see that the controversy about gun control is back in the news once more and the government is unsure of what to do. So many people are on the warpath about this subject, hard to place the blame on anybody than where it should be. As I remember when I was young, the TV was full of shoot-en-ups, cowboy in the old west, g-men chasing the bad guys and war stories of all sorts, and you know what, I didn't go out and shoot anyone or anything. I just knew right from wrong, real from unreal, as my parents knew. I can still remember the time I sassed my mother, that soap tasted badly. I got to thinking about someone once said a few years back, "when the parents took the control out of the teachers hands, what did that tell the kids?" Seems like when the responsibility fell entirely on the parent (s) shoulders, don't you think?

Short and to the point!

I'm sure that I will think of something to say soon.

GUEST COLUMNIST

JACK TALDI

THE CRAZY CAT GUY:

"The part time visitor hasn't been seen in about a month, so now back down to eight." This is what I reported last month, the very next morning Tuff Guy was sitting at my front door, go figure. In one of my columns I also reported that my YCs have taken to bread, French type bread at that, as you have guessed by now, bread is out, go figure. Well the roof thing is still going on, but not as often as last NL.

The yard tag still interests them, they play while waiting for the AM feeding.

Last month I told you about the YC's latest fun thing, playing on the roof.

One day I was watching TB and RP were into one of their standoffs. RP was telling me a story when TB appeared in the doorway and decided that this was a perfect position for this latest game of standoff.

RP sat and watched the doorway that happened to be the only way out of the room. RP studied the situation for a great deal of time, being more uncomfortable with passing minute. RP decided to take a chance and run for it, at that very moment TB started to wag her tail. This changed everything, when TB's tail moved into the air RP started to

run through the doorway. This **TB's** tail up **RP** started to go, again and again until **RP** threw caution to the wind and made a dash for it, tail up or down, with **TB** in hot pursuit. I don't know what **TB** was thinking; face-to-face **TB** will run.

Looking back on this latest standoff I have come to a few interesting comparisons, for one thing, the tail up and down remind me of a railroad crossing, next the standoff was a typical game of chess, and last was a temporary laps of memory on **TB's** side.

The **HC's** are still sleeping with me, the only thing is that now they both sleep at the bottom of the bed, every try sleeping with your knees tucked under your chin, try it sometimes.

**DOGS HAVE MASTERS
CATS HAVE SERVENTS**

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

**BE THE KIND OF WOMAN/MAN THAT WHEN YOUR FEET HIT THE GROUND
EACH MORNING THE DEVIL SAYS, "OH CRAP, THEY'RE UP"!**

LIVE WELL, LAUGH OFTEN, LOVE MUCH!!!

KEEP YOUR POWER DRY AND YOUR HEAD BELOW THE HORZON

HAPPY TRAILS

John Cechin W5FWR

Carrots4ever2@gmail.com