

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2022 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Bill Rascher - KT5TE

Vice Pres: Aaron Baker - KI5FIQ

Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

Visit our web site at

<https://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.



APRIL MINUTES

The April meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on April 6th. **President Bill KT5TE** opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Nacogdoches City/County Emergency Operations Center off FM 3314. Self-introductions were made by everyone present. Minutes were approved as published. Treasurer's report read.

Field Day, scheduled for June 25-26 is fast approaching. At a previous meeting, members volunteered as follows:

Overall FD Chairman:
KD5FEE

Bonus Points: open

Antennas: KT5TE

Radios and Computers:
KI5FIQ

Public Relations and
Publicity: KC5MIB

Digital: AA5HH

Food Chairman: W5NXX

With the influx of funds through the generosity of John Cechin W5FWR, we may be able to seriously consider some Field Day swag for this year. A possible topic for discussion at our May meeting.

March On-The-Air Challenge: The March challenge was to be the

high scorer 4 state QSO Parties: OK, ID, WI and VA. Scores were reported by KI5FIQ, W5NXX, N5JGE, AE5P, and W5ME. **Bob W5ME** reported the high score at 137, all CW of course, and was declared the winner. He will receive the ARRL book "Hands On Radio Experiments, Volume 3". Congratulations Bob.

The **April OTA Challenge** will be the high scorer in the San Jacinto Day Special Event operation (K5T) held April 22 - 24.

The **May OTA Challenge** may involve a POTA trip to send contacts rather than just receive them, or possibly involve a combination of the two. Let's discuss more at the May meeting.

Program: Darrell KI5PYQ presented a program on Programming a DMR Code Plug. The NARC DMR repeater on 443.050 uses the Bandmeister system with color code 2. Time slot 1 features various Texas channels while time

slot 2 includes SOTA and POTA channels.

Many thanks to Darrell for all his hard work in putting this together.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is here and we have received a little rain with lots of wind for April. The rain is needed very much, but the wind just did lots of damage to fences, barns and of course antennas. My neighbors across the street took the brunt of the wind damage. An anchored car shed used for a day shed for cattle, took off and flew 150 yards without hitting their barn, trucks or farm equipment. It threaded a needle... The neighbor directly to the east of them wasn't so lucky. His barn was scattered down the road and onto our place. We had a lot of trees snapped in half with some landing on the fences.

The Gap Titan vertical antenna was bent over badly after a guy came loose. How that guy came out of the eye bolt would be hard to answer. The opening in the eye bolt is about 1/64" at the most.

The guy wire is a stretched $\frac{1}{4}$ " cord, but still about 1/8" or more in diameter.

The replacement parts are about \$45 and the shipping \$70. Aluminum tubing is getting scarce and very expensive. The worst part is how it has to be packaged to arrive straight and undamaged by UPS or FedEx. The feed line is badly kinked, but I was instructed to test it before thinking about replacing the coax.

Some more heliax has been buried out to the tower, so now the antenna switch at the tower can be removed. The line had to be buried at about 3' because it goes under the garden which I till often. The two different cables that were used have two different types of center conductors. One has a spiral corrugated and the other has a tube for the center conductors. Basically, one is an early Andrew LDF6-50 and the other is a little more recent Andrew LDF6-50. So Byron, W5FH and I have discussed a swap deal for the N connectors

since the ones I have are for the smooth wall. With HF I could get away with what I have, but Byron deals mostly with VHF and higher. Thus the right connectors matters. Byron has also helped me plan a few changes to my VHF tower. As of now I'm connected back to my VHF antennas, so I should be back on the air for the Monday night net.

Maybe May will give us some more rain without all the wind of April? I hope so...

Our monthly meeting is May 4th. Hope to see you there.

73, Bill KT5TE

bill@watershipfarm.com

FROM THE VP CHAIR

Another month has seemed to fly by and it's once again time to sit down and write another column.

Not too much has happened in terms of radio this month, but I did find a new profound love of prolonged power outages a couple of weeks ago. When the storm with the straight line winds came through I was without power for a little over 24 hours. So when coming home from work with no Power, TV, or internet what do you do to keep yourself entertained? How about some radio? I mean "When all else fails" right? Plugging in the battery into the rig and something wonderful showed up on the scope - absolutely no noise whatsoever. Usually my noise floor, especially on 20, is so high it's hard to make contacts. Unfortunately though, while I could hear a bunch

of stations, including a few POTA stations out west I never hear, they could never hear me so no contacts made on this adventure. Hopefully soon work will die down some over the summer and I'll get a chance to get a real antenna put up outside so I can start getting out more and making more contacts.

Can't believe it's already May! Enjoy your month and see you at the meeting. Field day is coming up soon; hope we can see you out there this year.

73 de Aaron Baker
KI5FIQ

baker.barisax@gmail.com

NOTES FROM OUR EC

Wow another wet month. The 25 April ARES net was beginning to sound like the evening rainfall net in San Antonio, just not nearly as formal. We received at the mill 1.6 inches and for April 8 inches of rain. The 10 day outlook indicates some more rain Saturday through mid-week. Get your wellies and keep the broly handy. We'll take some time talking about ICS, Field Day and netiquette.

Last time we visited I asked how many knew what ICS was. I did have a response from one of our newer hams. ICS-Incident Command System.

The ICS provides guidance on how to organize assets to respond to an incident. One of the core concepts is an integrated ability to send and receive information within an organization as well as externally to other disciplines.

This is just a very small snapshot of a much larger function as we continue in later editions we'll look a little at the structure, forms (don't you just hate paperwork) and the like. There will be some websites listed later down the page. If you decide to chase down those rabbit holes a strong suggestion: big pot of coffee, or pitcher of tea. You will need them.

FIELD DAY ties right in with ICS. You may never know where you might have to set up to establish communications.

FIELD DAY 2022 is scheduled for 25-26 May 2022 1800 UTC until 2059 UTC (add 5 hours from CDT to get UTC). The rules, bands, modes, scoring and etc are all posted on the ARRL website. And yes, I will be doing the PIO gig again this year.

Netiquette, net etiquette, rears its head every now and then. We run a somewhat informal, fast

and loose net and sometimes we forget about the formalities. As we practice, these habits will fall into how we handle ourselves in a more formal net.

The net is run by the Net Control Station (NCS). He opens, closes, informs handles the roll call and controlling the net. He calls upon us to speak and we may later ask permission to speak again (recheck). When you are called upon for your recheck don't just go direct to another station, ask NCS to let you go direct, or ask for the other station to meet you with after the current net and return control to NCS. It keeps the chitchat down and allows the net to continue. Thanks for your attention.

Thanks to everyone who participates in our nets.

Websites of interest: www.phe.gov (you may have to depend on the browsers to get to the proper location) www.fema.gov (you will find

study material and forms and etc)

wikipedia
Incident_Command_System (I'm not always a big fan of wikipedia, but this one seems reasonably well maintained.

See ya on the nets.

73 de John Chapman
KC5MIB
kc5mib@arrl.net

VE TESTING

Because of the FCC decision to begin charging for Amateur Radio licenses effective April 19, NARC held a special VE testing session on April 13 as well as our normal test session on April 20.

The April 13 session had two applicants:

Daniel Thornton KI5TUT upgraded from General to Extra.

Richelle Thornton passed her Tech and is now KI5UVK.

Congratulations to this husband and wife team who reside in the Wells

area. And no, they are not related to Darrell.

The April 20 session had four applicants:

Tony Weatherford KE5ASM upgraded to General.

Paul Voyles from College Station passed his Tech.

Evan Bailey from College Station passed his Tech.

A third applicant from College Station did not manage to pass his Tech, but promises to return to give it another try.

Congratulations to all.

Many thanks to VE's Rusty KG5GEN, Ralph N6RH, Mike AA5HH, Mike W5NXK, Robert KD5FEE and Army AE5P.

Remember that we give VE tests the third Wednesday of **EVERY** month. For the latest information always check the club website at:

<https://w5nac.com/ve-testing/>

73 de AE5P.

email: ae5p@arrl.net

TWO METER CLUB NETS

Please join us each week for the two meter nets sponsored by NARC. All stations are welcome to check into the nets.

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 NARC meeting will be Wednesday May 4 at the Nacogdoches City/County EOC. Meeting begins at 7:00; doors open at 6:30. Come early for socializing before the meeting.

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>

7th Call Area QSO Party

May 7 -8

<http://7qp.org>

CQ WW WPX CW

May 28 -29

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

Check out the many contests listed on the Contest Calendar link shown here. There are many State QSO parties and 'Parks-On-The-Air' events that may be just right for you. Check 'em out.

Software Defined Terminal Node Controller

by

Thomas Atchison W5TV

Our club has recently been interested in putting our Winlink iGate station, located on the top of the Fredonia Hotel, back on the air. I wish to express our thanks to Darrell Thornton, KI5PYQ, for repairing the station and getting it back on the air. If you plan on using this Winlink station from your home station you will need to have an FM transceiver tuned to 145.05 MHz, you will need a terminal node controller (TNC), and you will need a computer to run the Winlink software. You can download Winlink Express from the following URL:

https://www.winlink.org/content/winlink_express_1400_released

Some people have a hardware TNC, however, you may not be aware that there exists several software defined TNCs that can be used with the computer you use for Winlink Express. Most computers that are used by amateur radio operators have a soundcard already installed, but if your computer does not, you should be able to add one to your computer easily. For this article I would like to focus on a particular software defined TNC.

The software defined TNC I have used was written by UZ7HO and it is called SoundModem. You can find his web site at the following URL:

<http://uz7.ho.ua/packetradio.htm>

At the time that this article was written the latest version of SoundModem was **soundmodem113.zip**. This is a zipped file so you will need to download it and extract the files before you can use it. You will also need to connect your computer to your radio by a cable that connects to your sound card so you can utilize push-to-talk on your radio and transfer data to the sound card. The file `user_guide_v105_EN.pdf` can be downloaded from the UZ7HO site to help you set up your packet station.

If you are interested, take a look at the UZ7HO site and read some of the material he has. I have used this program with my Flex 6600 to send and receive messages with Winlink Express. Have fun.

WHAT IS ARRL FIELD DAY?

Produced by ARRL, the national association for amateur radio <http://www.arrl.org>

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, **FUN!**

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they **ARE** so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called "hams") are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

What is the ARRL?

The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA, representing over 170,000 FCC-licensed Amateurs. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

What is Amateur Radio?

Often called "ham radio," the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it's grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but can create whole new ways to do things.

For More Information visit: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>