

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

## 2022 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Bill Rascher - KT5TE

Vice Pres: Aaron Baker - KI5FIQ

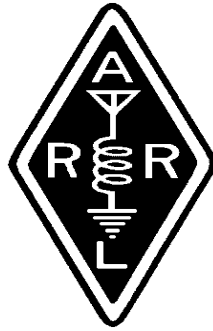
Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

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.



## AUGUST MINUTES

The August meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on August 3rd. **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.

**The July OTA Challenge** was won by **Tom W5TV**, who was presented with the ARRL book "Guide to DX'ing". Congratulations Tom.

**July OTA challenge** was to make the highest score in the NAQP RTTY contest, July 16-17.

**August OTA Challenge** will be to make the highest score in the NAQP SSB contest, August 20-21. No more excuses. Get on the air!

Meeting closed at 7:08 p.m.

The rescheduled **Ice Cream Social** was held. Lots of ice cream in many flavors were to be found and many bowls of the frozen stuff was consumed. As usual, lots of ice cream was left over and taken home, but everyone present reported a good time.

Aaron KI5FIQ, assisted by Roger KOYY and Mike W5NXK, presented a program on Parks On The

Air (POTA). Good information and very interesting.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The last week of August really cooled off, so maybe September will be a cooler month. It might be a good time to climb the 70' tower and get the TH11 rotating, again. I'm hopeful that it might be useful for more than a week at a time. For the last 6 years it has failed after two hours of operation time and time again. I've been told it is a good antenna, but all it's been good for is a perch. It is very tempting to pull the bolts at the base and drop the tower. Then sell it off as scrap aluminum. The concrete block can be used for erosion control. I find the Gap Titan and the MyAntennas EFHW

wires (10-80 & 40-160) work very well. More importantly they're always reliable and functional. From my experience the recommendation has to be use a wire and forget any ideas about a tower with a yagi.

With the cool weather ahead it is time to think about heading to some parks with the Elecraft KX radios. A little time with POTA in a park sure sounds inviting. Radio time for me is QSOs, switches, and knobs. Computers are to be avoided...

Hope to see you at our September 7th meeting.

73, Bill KT5TE

[bill@watershipfarm.com](mailto:bill@watershipfarm.com)

## FROM THE VP CHAIR

Wow it's the end of August already? Between the weather and getting classrooms ready for the fall semester I haven't gotten much radio time this month. In fact, the only time I got on was the hour I got to play in the NAQP. All my attempts to get out and POTA when I finally got the time were foiled by the needed rain the area.

I'm glad y'all enjoyed the POTA program at the meeting last month and I hope y'all were able to get started in POTA if y'all hadn't already.

Hopefully September slows down some that I can get on the radio some this month. Anyway, enjoy the month and hope to see y'all at the meeting.

73 de Aaron Baker  
KI5FIQ

[baker.barisax@gmail.com](mailto:baker.barisax@gmail.com)

## NOTES FROM OUR EC

Let's get past the obvious, yes, it has rained. After 38 dry days and the miserable triple digit heat we have gotten. The mill recorded about 4.0 inches over the that rain window that started 15 August. I know others have received that much in one rain event. Thank goodness for the rain. Some more rain would be welcome.

The 2020 Hurricane season is moving right along, 3 more months to go. There have only been 3 named storms for the season. There are 3 disturbances in the Atlantic at this time (31 Aug). September and October seemed to be pretty busy for named events for the last 3 years. so I guess we wait and see.

It's coming, the SET is coming. 1 October the Simulated Emergency Test is coming. There has been some information going out. I'll need to do some homework for more details and report back to the

club. Watch the mail group, Check out the ICS forms and your WINLINK connectivity if you have it. Remember there is the WINLINK training going on I believe Wednesday evenings.

Again, thanks everyone especially our Net Control Operators who participate in our weekly nets. It's a little short this time, so...

See ya on the nets.

73 de John Chapman  
KC5MIB  
[kc5mib@arrl.net](mailto:kc5mib@arrl.net)

## VE TESTING

We did not have any applicants for the August VE test session.

Many thanks to VE's **Rusty KG5GEN**, **Ralph N6HR**, **Mike AA5HH**, **Mike W5NXX** **Robert KD5FEE** and **Army AE5P**.

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

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

Several of the VEC's, including ARRL-VEC who we use, are now offering remote on-line testing, allowing folks to take the exam(s) from their home without driving. After a long discussion with our NARC VE team, we have decided to make our exams available on an in-person basis only.

73 de AE5P.

email: [ae5p@arrl.net](mailto: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 September 7th at the Nacogdoches City/County EOC. Meeting begins at 7:00; doors open at 6:30. Come early for socializing before the meeting. A program is planned.

## **HAMLIST**

Are you on Hamlist? Check it and join at:

[https://w5nac.com/about/  
email-reflectors/](https://w5nac.com/about/email-reflectors/)

## 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 <https://www.contestcalendar.com//contestcal.html>

Colorado QSO Party 1300Z, Sep 3 to 0400Z, Sep 4

Tennessee QSO Party 1800Z, Sep 4 to 0300Z, Sep 5

**Route 66 Special Event** Sep 10 to Sep 18

Alabama QSO Party 1500Z, Sep 10 to 0300Z, Sep 11

**ARRL September VHF Contest** 1800Z, Sep 10 to 0300Z, Sep 12

**Texas QSO Party** 1400Z, Sep 17 to 0200Z, Sep 18 and 1400Z-2000Z, Sep 18

Iowa QSO Party 1400Z, Sep 17 to 0200Z, Sep 18

New Hampshire QSO Party 1600Z, Sep 17 to 0400Z, Sep 18 and 1600Z-2200Z, Sep 18

Wisconsin Parks on the Air 1600Z-2300Z, Sep 17

New Jersey QSO Party 1600Z, Sep 17 to 0359Z, Sep 18

**CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY** 0000Z, Sep 24 to 2400Z, Sep 25

Maine QSO Party 1200Z, Sep 24 to 1200Z, Sep 25

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.

## Another Software TNC

by

Thomas Atchison W5TV

In a conversation with Darrell Thornton, KI5PYQ, we talked about software defined terminal node controllers (TNC) and he mentioned one called Dire Wolf that he had heard about. Since I recently published a brief discussion about the software defined TNC called SoundModem, I thought it would be appropriate to describe where you can get Dire Wolf and some of the benefits of this software defined TNC.

The name Dire Wolf stands for **D**ecoded **I**nformation from **R**adio **E**missions for **W**indows **O**r **L**inux **F**ans. Dire Wolf is a modern software replacement for the old 1980's style TNC built with special hardware. Without any additional software, it can be used for:

- APRS GPS tracker
- Digipeater
- Internet Gateway (IGate)
- APRStt gateway.

It can also be used as a virtual TNC for RMS Express. This particular application is of current interest to many of us.

You can download Dire Wolf from the following site:

[Releases · wb2osz/direwolf · GitHub](#)

At this time, the latest version is Version 1.6 - October 2020. The Windows version is built for both 32 and 64 bit operating systems. The authors suggest using the 64 bit version if your operating system will permit because it seems to run faster.

You can obtain a User's Guide from the following URL:

[direwolf/User-Guide.pdf at master · wb2osz/direwolf · GitHub](#)

Since I am using SoundModem successfully for Winlink, I have not loaded Dire Wolf; however, I plan to try it soon for comparison with SoundModem.

## It's Magic!

By Brooke Allen, N2BA

A few years ago, a co-worker and I decided to take our teenage sons to the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual conference. Our pre-trip planning conversation went something like this:

He: "Let's take my car. It's brand new. I have an iPod jack, a satellite radio, a GPS, a CD player with quadraphonic sound, and hands-free cellular."

Me: "Let's take my 10-year old beater. I've got a cassette tape player we won't use, an AM/FM radio that we won't use either, and I have paper maps from Triple A. *But* I have a rig in the car."

"What good is that?"

"We can talk to people all over the world."

"I can talk to people all over the world too."

"But we'll be talking for free."

"But I can talk for free too. I have a VoIP plan."

"Yes, but we'll be talking to complete strangers."

"Why would you want to talk to people you don't know, and what would you talk about?"

"Look, do you know how your mobile phone works?"

He did, and he explained the entire analog-to-digital path and back. After all, the guy heads our systems group.

"That's great," I said. "My ham radio uses FM."

"Do you mean frequency modulation? Because I know what that is too." He was getting bored.

"No. I mean frigging magic."

"Explain." He looked skeptical.

"My rig is a magic box that will take a light bulb's worth of energy from our car battery, modulate it with my voice, and direct it to a short metal stick on the roof of the car in such a way that magic, invisible wave-like particles will boil off it and spread out in every direction."

"Some of those particles will go out into space, but most of them will be absorbed by something - the ground, clouds, trees, and the like. A few will bounce off things, such as the upper atmosphere, the earth and the oceans, before they too are eventually absorbed. A few will bounce off things more than once."

"Another magician like me in Italy or Russia or Argentina or Japan will have a piece of metal hooked up to *his* magic box. An unfathomable number of particles will be hitting his piece of metal from all kinds of sources - manmade, natural, and extraterrestrial. Compare the cross-sectional areas of our two pieces of metal to that of the entire universe, and compare the power of things like lightning bolts, stars, and the big bang to my 100 Watts, and you will realize that only an infinitesimal fraction of the magic particles he captures will have come from us."

"But he will direct his magic box to select just those few magic particles from me and use them to reconstitute my voice, and he will answer me. It will be as if I flash my headlight and someone in Europe sees it and flashes back. That other magician and I probably won't have anything in common except that we are both magicians, and that will give us plenty to talk about. The thing is magic; there's no other word for it,"

He was slack-jawed, but when he recovered, he said, "Cool. Let's take your car."

We talked to people in Florence and Moscow and Buenos Aires. The drive to the conference was quite long, but it wasn't long enough, because 20 meters was still open when we arrived, and I really wanted to work Japan.

Most science teachers do it all wrong. Can you imagine a magician first teaching you how a trick is done, and then doing the trick for you? That would be no fun. Why bother leaning how to do magic, if you never get to experience it. Richard Feynman knew that if you want to hook someone on physics, then start with a magic trick, such as the dual-slit experiment. Shoot a single photon at a wall with two slits in it. The photon can only



go through one of the slits, but it will interfere with the *probability* that it went through the other one. (Watch [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUJfjRoxCbk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hUJfjRoxCbk) if you are the kind of person who *must* know how a trick is done. Then you will *feel* a need to learn physics.)

In like fashion, most hams explain their hobby all wrong. Instead, explain the magic, then shut up and see what happens.

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