

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

## 2023 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Aaron Baker - KI5FIQ

Vice Pres: Mark Phillips - KI5POH

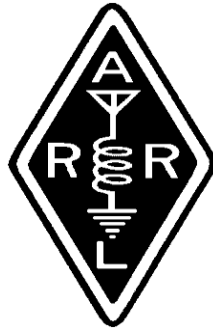
Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

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.



## MAY MINUTES

The May business meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held April 26, on the club's 146.84 repeater. The three club officers checked in, as well as three additional club members.

**Army AE5P** gave a report on the recent K5T San Jacinto Day special event and asked for help in handling QSL card requests. (Editor's note: **Dave KI5RAT** agreed to act as QSL manager for this event and has processed all cards received. Many thanks to **Dave**)

**Aaron KI5FIQ** announced that TDEM will make a presentation at the regular May meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Robert KD5FEE** reported that an additional CME may hit the earth on 4/28 per Space Weather.

Net closed at 8:07 p.m.

The regular May meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club was held as scheduled on May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the City/County EOC with 22 members and 4 guests. **President Aaron KI5FIQ** opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Introductions were made by all present. Minutes of the previous meetings were approved as published. Treasurer's report was read.

**President Aaron KI5FIQ** appointed **Bill KT5TE** as Field Day Chairman.

**Program:** Presentation by Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) by **Jon Clingamon**, District Coordinator from Lufkin. Jon introduced **Wyatt Henderson**, Nacogdoches County Liaison Officer and **Seth Sheel**, Shelby County Liaison Officer. **Jon's** presentation covered the mission of TDEM and how they can assist local officials when disaster strikes. A suggestion was made that the TDEM personnel become licensed Amateur Radio operators. We hope to see them at a future VE test session.

Meeting closed at 19:54.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

A fun filled May is now in the books and now we get to switch gears and start preparing for Field Day. The fox hunt a few weekends ago was entertaining and an learning experience. Nothing like getting the fox ready 15 minutes before you have to leave and then the battery terminal falls off the PCB. But thankfully not all was lost, and we were able to get it repaired thanks to Army. Looks like we might try do another one here in July. If you've missed the last two, I highly recommend participating in one. Hope everyone has a good month of June and hope to see y'all at the meeting and definitely hope to see y'all for field day.

73, Aaron KI5FIQ  
Baker.barisax@gmail.com

## FROM THE VP CHAIR

The Fox Hunt we had in May was conducted by Club President, Aaron (KI5FIQ), and he did a great job hiding the Fox. We had a good number of members hunting and we had a great time hunting the Fox. Thank you Aaron! We may have another Fox Hunt in July. Looking forward to Field Day June 24-25.

The DFW Ham Expo in Lewisville will celebrate another successful Hamfest on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This year's event is Sponsored by the Denton County Amateur Radio Association and the ARRL. More details may be found here.....

<http://www.dfwhamexpo.com>

This is a one-day event and includes indoors as well as an outside Tailgate area Tailgating starts early (before 7 am) and rolls up when the heat demands it. The DFW Ham Expo will be located

at Vista Mall 2401 S Stemmons Fwy Lewisville, TX 75067 North Mall Entrance #6 (Food Court) Use the easy directions on their website.

Have a great June!

73, Mark KI5POH

[KI5POH21@gmail.com](mailto:KI5POH21@gmail.com)

## NOTES FROM OUR EC

WOW! Where did all that rain come from? Too much, too soon, too quickly and we got flooded. Lanana Creek flooded, Banita Creek flooded. I have no idea how Attoyac Bayou fared. But, as quickly as it came, the waters receded. I saw how it impacted operations at the mill. One establishment along Banita Creek recovered very quickly due to a hard-working crew, 24 hours, remarkable.

How many saw the drone footage taken along Banita Creek. If you haven't seen it, YouTube Drone Footage of May 10-11 2023 Flooding in Nac.

Hurricane Season opens 1 June. Look for a separate article later in the newsletter. Let's take few minutes to cover some hurricane stuff.

First how do you listen to or contact National Hurricane Center (NHC) during an event?

WX4NHC can be contacted via the following:

Primary frequency: 20m 14.325m (U)

Secondary and Night time and Mobile Maritime Net: 7.268m (L)

Caribbean Net: 3815m (L)

EchoLink Conference: "WX-TALK" Node 7203.

EchoLink Alternate Conference: "VKEMCOMM"

IRLP Node 9219, Alternate Node: 9508 or 9123.

If there is a storm event in the Gulf or Caribbean basins, we can expect certain frequencies may be flagged by appropriate authorities. Please keep all NHC traffic germane to the weather event. Another group that may have information is the Mobile Maritime Service Net 14.300 (U). They provide services to smaller vessels and weather announcements.

Of course, the usual

question when we go to these season changes: How prepared are you?

73 de MIB  
John

<https://w4ehw.fiu.edu/wx4nhc-contact.html>

<https://hwn.org/about-us/faqs.html>

<https://www.mmsn.org/>

73 all, see you on the Nets.

John KC5MIB

## VE TESTING

We had four applicants for the May VE test session. Congratulations to **Buzz Mouton KJ5AEN** of Nacogdoches for passing his Extra exam. **Buzz** has now passed all three exams

in three consecutive months, quite the accomplishment. Buzz's son **Scott** passed his Tech and is now **KJ5BDD**. And a big shout out to **Wolfie, KI6MHB**, who passed his Extra. Way to go **Wolfie**. We were pleased to have a new young applicant **Grant Partin** who passed his Tech and is now **KJ5BCW**. Congratulations to all.

Many thanks to VE's, **Rusty KD5GEN**, **Mike W5NXX**, **Ralph N6RH**, **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/>

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.

## HAMLIST

Are you on Hamlist? Check it out and join at:

<https://w5nac.com/about/email-reflectors/>

## NEXT MEETING

The monthly business meeting is held on the Club's 146.84 repeater, 8:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before our normal scheduled meeting which is always the first Wednesday of the month.

The next regular NARC meeting will be Wednesday June 7th at the Nacogdoches City/County EOC. Meeting begins at 7:00; doors open at 6:30. Come early for socializing before the meeting. After a very short business meeting, we will have a presentation on our plans for the June VHF Contest and for Field Day.

Hope to see ya'll there.

## FOX HUNT

Our latest foxhunt was held on May 20. The fox was managed by **Aaron KI5FIQ** who did a masterful job of hiding it. A nice late lunch was enjoyed by all participants at Jalapeno Tree.

Our next foxhunt will be in July with the fox managed by **Robert KD5FEE**. Date to be announced. All club members are encouraged to participate.

## 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>

### ARRL INTERNATIONAL DIGITAL CONTEST (NO RTTY)

June 3-4, 2023

<https://contests.arrl.org/dig/>

### ARRL JUNE VHF CONTEST

June 10-12, 2023

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

### ARRL FIELD DAY

June 24-25, 2023

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

### CQ World Wide VHF

July 15-16, 2023

6 and 2 Meters only

### NAQP CW

Aug 4 - 6, 2023

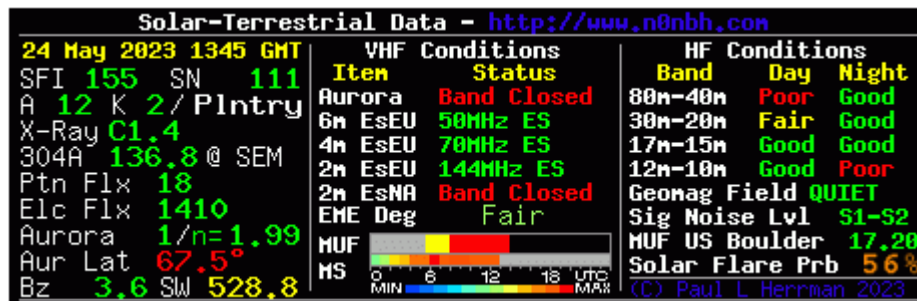
<http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

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.

# VOACAP: On-line Propagation Prediction Tool

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

Most hams are probably familiar with the space weather propagation widgets (see below) and may consult them when getting on the air. Many hams embed them on their QRZ or other webpages. These tools are useful in a general sense to see which bands might be open and whether solar emissions are adversely affecting propagation. They are based on measured ionospheric and space weather data and may provide predictions for a few hours ahead of the current time.



VOACAP is an acronym for Voice of America Coverage Analysis Program. It is used by the VOA to determine broadcast schedules, antenna choices, power levels, etc. to target programming to various regions of the world. Nowadays, VOA over-the-air programming is quite limited, so I am not sure how much they actually use it now.

VOACAP is a propagation prediction on steroids! It provides point-to-point prediction for specific bands, times / dates, modes, power levels, antennas and many other factors! On the next page is a full screenshot of the VOACAP webpage ([VOACAP-HF](#)). The screenshot gives you some idea of the options and capabilities of this tool. The details are probably hard to read in print, so I encourage you to click the link above and follow along on-line.

At the upper left of the page, you select the transmit and receive locations. I have set my 6-digit grid square and selected Crozet Island from the DXCC dropdown list, respectively. The red map pin indicates the transmitter and the blue map pin indicates the receiver. The red, blue and green dots allow you to easily select sunrise, sunset, and midnight at the transmitter (red dots), receiver (blue dots) or midpoint (dots with blue borders). The top row of dots (green / blue) for the midpoint is for the short path and the bottom row (red / blue) is for the long path.

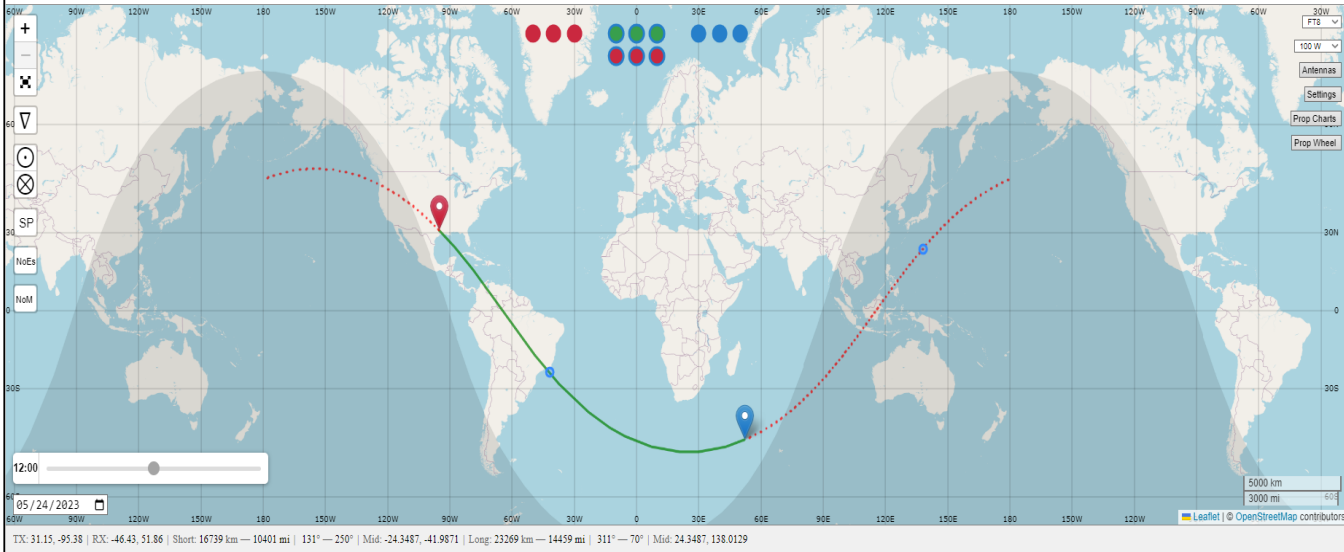
At the center left are several buttons mainly to adjust how the map is displayed, to store locations, choose short / long path, etc. At the bottom left corner of the graph frame, you can select time of day on the slider and date via the calendar popup. In the upper right, you can set "Mode" and "Power" via simple dropdowns. The "Antennas", "Settings", "Prop

Charts” and “Prop Wheel” buttons open a slide out to the left of the map frame. For Antennas, you can set the type of antenna per band by selecting from dropdown lists. Verticals, dipoles and Yagi’s at various heights are listed. For Settings, I’ll refer you to the excellent on-line user manual ([VOACAP-HF User Manual](#)) as these are too involved to explain in a short article.



VOACAP Online for Ham Radio – 14:46:09 UTC (09:46 AM)

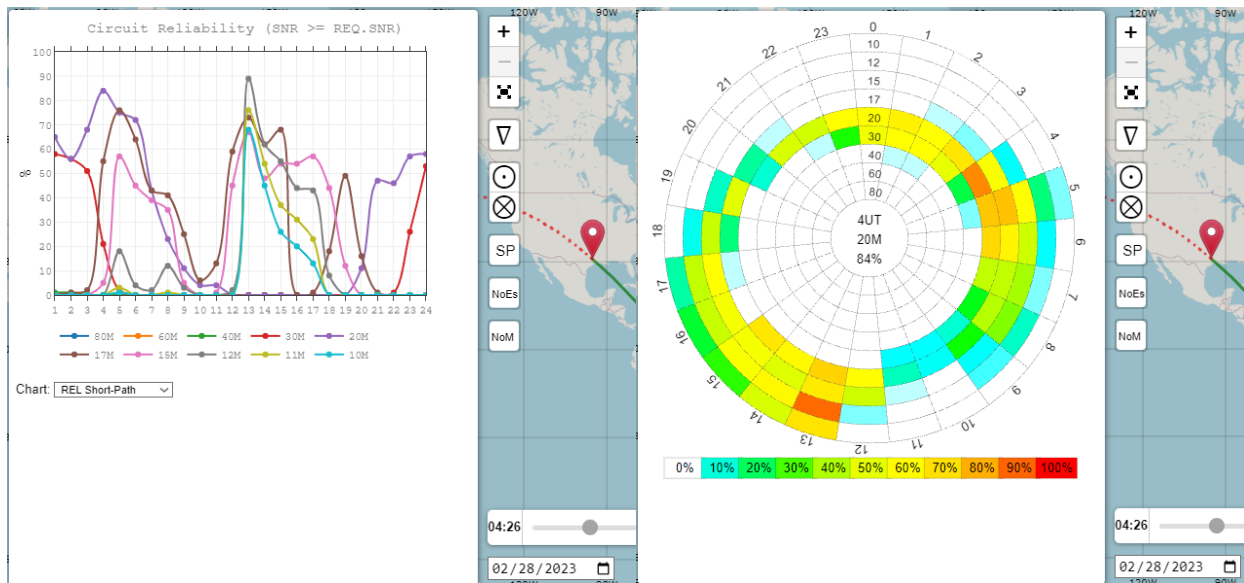
Select TX QTH: << Select a location >> or set Grid: EM21hd or Latitude: 31.1460 Longitude: -95.3750  
Select RX QTH: FT5W Crozet or set Grid: LES3vm or Latitude: -46.4300 Longitude: 51.8800



TX: 31.15, -95.38 | RX: -46.43, 51.86 | Short: 16739 km — 10401 mi | 131° — 250° | Mid: -24.3487, -41.9871 | Long: 23269 km — 14459 mi | 311° — 70° | Mid: 24.3487, 138.0129

- Band-by-band
- Best FREQ
- REL | SDBW | SNR
- SIG PD
- SNR PD
- Total
- Year
- QSO Window
- Season
- Antenna
- TO Angle
- Planner
- Planner DIY
- Distance
- P2P Grayline
- Sun M
- Sun Y
- MUF Map
- REL Map
- SDBW Map
- DXCC Grayline
- Space WX
- EME

The Prop Charts and Prop Wheel present the main outputs that a casual user would want to see and are shown below for February 28, 2023 at 0426UTC. Why did I choose this date and time? Because that is when I made a good contact with FT8WW on Crozet Island. The chart and wheel show the same information but in different formats. The probability of making a contact in the early morning UTC between these locations was best on 20M. At 0400UTC probability was 84% and at 0500UTC it was 75%. My contact was made on 20M and I recall watching FT8WW's S/N ratio increase from midnight onwards (as VOACAP predicts) until we made the contact. I also made a contact on February 17, 2023 at 0317UTC when the probability was between 68% (0300UTC) and 84% (0400UTC).



The row of green buttons below the map frame opens new windows with a tremendous amount of data. For example, the "Year" button provides tables of average propagation probabilities by band and time of day for each month of the current year (via short or long path as selected). The data can be downloaded as a csv file for further analysis in a spreadsheet tool. The "Best Frequencies" button provides a table of the 3 best frequencies by time of day for a given month and year (via short or long path as selected).

I have used this tool several times and it appears to be quite helpful in deciding when to chase specific DX stations. It can also be useful for many operating situations like DXCC, grid chasing, county hunting, and any kind of HF award chasing. There are a lot of options to select and see how propagation is affected, so it can be a great learning tool as well – check it out!

## HURRICANE SEASON 2023

John Chapman, KC5MIB

Welcome to Hurricane Season 2023, well at least the run up to it. I started this missive back in April. I am certainly not a weather forecaster or some climate expert. I just spend a lot of time digging around the web chasing down rabbit holes gathering data and watching what goes on. As always, I will put my citations at the end of this article.

June 1 is fast approaching and the 6-month season begins. Pre-season this year actually had one subtropical storm ramp up in mid-January of this year along the northeastern coast of the United States. This was updated 11 May as reported on the National Hurricane Center's web site.

The 5 agencies have made their predictions. NOAA will publish their best forecast 25 May. Let's take a quick at the averages for the upcoming season: Named Storms 14.4, Hurricanes 6.8, Major Storms 2.8 (Cat3 or greater). These numbers aren't too far off of last year's actual number.

There is a fly the ointment: *El Nino* may manifest itself There are a number of discussions of *El Nino* and sister *El Nina* and how it may affect the upcoming hurricane season. Al.com has a pretty good discussion. You can also search on *El Nino*.

So, what is the bottom line? I guess the best thing is to keep up with weather events, be prepared if you have to stay, be prepared if you are planning to evacuate elsewhere.

[www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov)

spaghetti models (great web site for many of the graphical models

<https://www.al.com/news/2023/05/hurricane-season-2023-an-early-look-at-what-to-expect.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2023\\_Atlantic\\_hurricane\\_season](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2023_Atlantic_hurricane_season)