

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2023 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Aaron Baker - KI5FIQ

Vice Pres: Mark Phillips - KI5POH

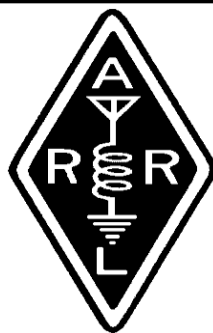
Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

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.



OCTOBER MINUTES

The October business meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held September 27 on the club's 146.84 repeater. The three club officers checked in, as well as two additional club members.

President Aaron KI5FIQ appointed a nominating committee consisting of Jim N5JGE, Wolfie KI5MHB and Army AE5P. The committee is charged with presenting a slate of candidates for 2024 officers at the next meeting.

Darrell KI5PYQ has proposed doing a smoked pork butt as food after the next fox hunt, with a \$6 charge for each participant to alleviate cost to the club. No complaints were heard. Approved.

Net closed at 8:15 p.m.

The regular October meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club was held as scheduled on October 4th at the City/County EOC with 16members and 1 guest. **Vice-President Mark KI5POH** 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 not available.

Army AE5P discussed changes in ARRL

membership renewals and the changes being made to printed QST and other publications. In a nutshell, effective January 2024 ARRL dues will increase from \$49 to \$59 a year and the print version of QST will only be available for an additional \$25 a year. QST and several other publications will be available to all ARRL members in digital format.

Program: Darrell KI5PYQ presented a program on communicating with satellites.

Meeting closed at 1954.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall is (mostly) here. Looks like we'll see some much cooler weather right before our next meeting.

The poor radio is still collecting dust, did come across a new to me digital mode known as Feld Hell (Or Hellschreiber) haven't been able to try the mode similar to RTTY yet, but it has picked up steam a little in one of the online communities I'm a part of. So maybe soon (as I always seem to say...) I'll get to try it.

Thanksgiving is not far away. Hope y'all have a good November and a happy Thanksgiving. See you at the meeting!

73, Aaron KI5FIQ
Baker.barisax@gmail.com

FROM THE VP CHAIR

It is hard to believe that it is already November. This year has gone by fast.

Our November program will be discussing our orange box radios, how to set up and use them. Army (AE5P) will lead the discussion and it will be interesting to learn about these radios.

We will have our next Fox Hunt on Saturday, November 11th at 10am. Darrell (KI5PYQ) will be hiding the Fox and he will announce the frequency on the 84 Repeater at 10am. We will enjoy pulled pork sandwiches, prepared by Darrell, after the Hunt. Of course, you will need to find the Fox to know where to go to enjoy the lunch. Good luck hunting!

I hope to see you all at the November meeting.

73, Mark KI5POH
KI5POH21@gmail.com

NOTES FROM OUR EC

2023 is waning into the holiday season, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Kwanza, Hanukkah, Christmas and New Years. Oh and don't forget Winter Solstice 21 Dec 2023 the day with the fewest hours of sunlight in the Northern Hemisphere. I hope our friends down under enjoy the extra sunlight.

Let's get into some EC stuff: Hurricanes, the Fall SET, the Spring SET, and DST.

Hurricane Season 2023 ends 30 Nov, 39 days from 22 Oct when I started this column. But hey, who's counting? Well, this guy is.

November historically has had a few storms. Just a quick look back, 2022 had 3 Cat 1 storms, 2021 1 TS and 2020 2 Cat 4 storms, so we can't rule out a whopper of a finale for 2023. Oct hasn't been busy, Tammy a Cat 1 wandering the Mid-Atlantic and seemingly not

going to do much and some tropical activity in the Caribbean. We will just have to see what happens.

Quick note, Pacific Hurricane Otis made land fall near Acapulco Mexico as a Cat 5 storm. It ramped up to Cat 5 in hours not days. WOW.

The Fall SET has come and gone. Let me apologize for not getting the rest of the word out for the SET. I had a significant family event the took a lot of energy. Documentation was slow getting out and arrived late. I was not able to review it to my satisfaction to present to you.

This would have been a very easy SET. During the eclipse event, make 2 HF or 1 VHF contact. Read your s-meter and record the baseline noise level, make the contact and record the s-meter levels and record that. Repeat. Send findings to me. Not very hard to do. The notes I saw indicate that we will try that again during the

Spring 2024 eclipse. Again, let's wait and see.

Let's close and talk a little about that maddening human construct of time specifically daylight-saving time. I won't go into the history of it. We either love or hate it. 5 November we fall back from the 2023 season. There had been some talk that this might be the last DST but that seems to have gone by the way side. Just remember Central Standard Time is 6 hours from GMT.

Let's close up, thanks for all you folks that participate in our nets and our net control operators who manage them.

73 de MIB
John

VE TESTING

We had one person for the October VE test session. Bryan Whittiker, now KJ5CZZ, took and passed his Tech exam with a perfect score.

We do want to remind everyone that we offer in-person testing for all classes of Amateur Radio licenses on the third Wednesday of every month.

Many thanks to VE's, Rusty KD5GEN, Mike AA5HH, Mike W5NXK, Ralph N6RH, Robert KD5FEE, and Army AE5P.

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.

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 November 1st 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, Army AE5P will present a program on how to use the Club's Orange Box Radios.

Hope to see ya'll there.

SILENT KEYS

We are sorry to report on the passing of at least two local hams.

Clarence Riddle KC5UBP passed away on August 22, 2023. Clarence was a past

President of NARC and a current member of the club.

Paul Risk, N1DJ, while not a member of NARC, was very well known locally for his many columns in the Daily Sentinel Newspaper.

Both Clarence and Paul will be missed.

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>

CQWWDX SSB

Oct 28 - 29, 2023

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

ARRL SWEEPSTAKES CW

Nov 4 - 6, 2023

<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

NORTH AMERICAN SSB SPRINT

Nov 12, 2023

<http://ssbsprint.com/rules/>

ARRL SWEEPSTAKES SSB

Nov 18 - 29, 2023

<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

CQ WWDX CW

Nov 25 - 26, 2023

<http://www.cqww.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.

POTA Adventures

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

This month's article will highlight a few POTA adventures that I went on earlier this year. POTA hunting and activating have been a large part of my operating activities for the last two and a half years. In fact, as I am writing this, we are trailer camping at Caddo Lake State Park which I just activated September 25th and 26th. I plan to activate several other close by POTA entities while here later in the week.

Roger, KOYY got me started when he organized a POTA outing to Mission Delores State Historic Site (POTA Reference K-6582). AA5HH, W5NXX and KB5EDR also activated and we had a great time even though it was cold and damp. It has been pretty damp here at Caddo Lake State Park, but I sure wish it was a little colder. The high was "only" 91° F today, so I guess I shouldn't be complaining with how hot this summer has been! While activating the park last night, I used my IC-7100 at 75W into a Wolf River Coil on 20M and made contacts as far as Chile and the Azores. While not on the POTA leaderboards, I spend a fair amount of my operating time "chasing parks". Lately, I have been using the POTAPlus browser extension (see August newsletter) to highlight parks that I have not hunted before and boost my hunter score. I also operate all of the major modes that activators use (SSB, CW, digital) to boost my totals. I am actively learning CW using the CW Ninja YouTube video series ([CW Ninja](#)) so the vast majority of those QSO's are "PC-assisted". That is, I use a decoder to verify that I received correctly. Initially, I also used PC sending (via ALog), but lately, I have been sending my replies using an iambic paddle.

For POTA activations, I have been much less active, although with the cooler weather coming, I plan to get out more. This summer, my activations have been in the truck, replacing my dual-band antenna with an NMO to 3/8-24 adapter and a hamstick. I operated QRP digital from the driver's seat using the QRP Labs QDX transceiver and notebook computer. I drove a 3.5-hour loop hitting 4 parks out of Waxahachie, TX as shown on the first map below. The goal was to get 4 quick activations and meet my wife back in Waxahachie for dinner. Despite using only 5W and truck-mounted hamstick, the 59 QSOs spanned the entire US and reached into southern Canada on 20M in the early afternoon (see second map below). These activations could have also been done using CW. However, for SSB I would want to use a more powerful rig.

I first activated Mission Tejas State Park in March of this year. When I noticed that remnants of El Camino Real de Tejas National Historic Trail were visible in the park, I decided to activate a "two-fer". The marked portion of El Camino Real is not in any of the developed areas, so this would involve a short hike and setting up in the field. POTA rules require that your entire "station" be within 100-feet of a linear entity such as a trail and on public land. That means that your antenna / coax, rig, battery, PC etc. must all be within 100-feet to be a good activation.

3 hr 32 3 days 16 hr

- Hampton Inn & Suites Waxahachie, 2010
- Cleburne State Park, 5800 Park Rd 21, Cleburne, TX
- Dinosaur Valley State Park, Glen Rose, TX
- Meridian State Park, 173 Park Road #7, Meridian, TX
- Lake Whitney State Park, 433 FM1244, Waco, TX
- Hampton Inn & Suites Waxahachie, 2010

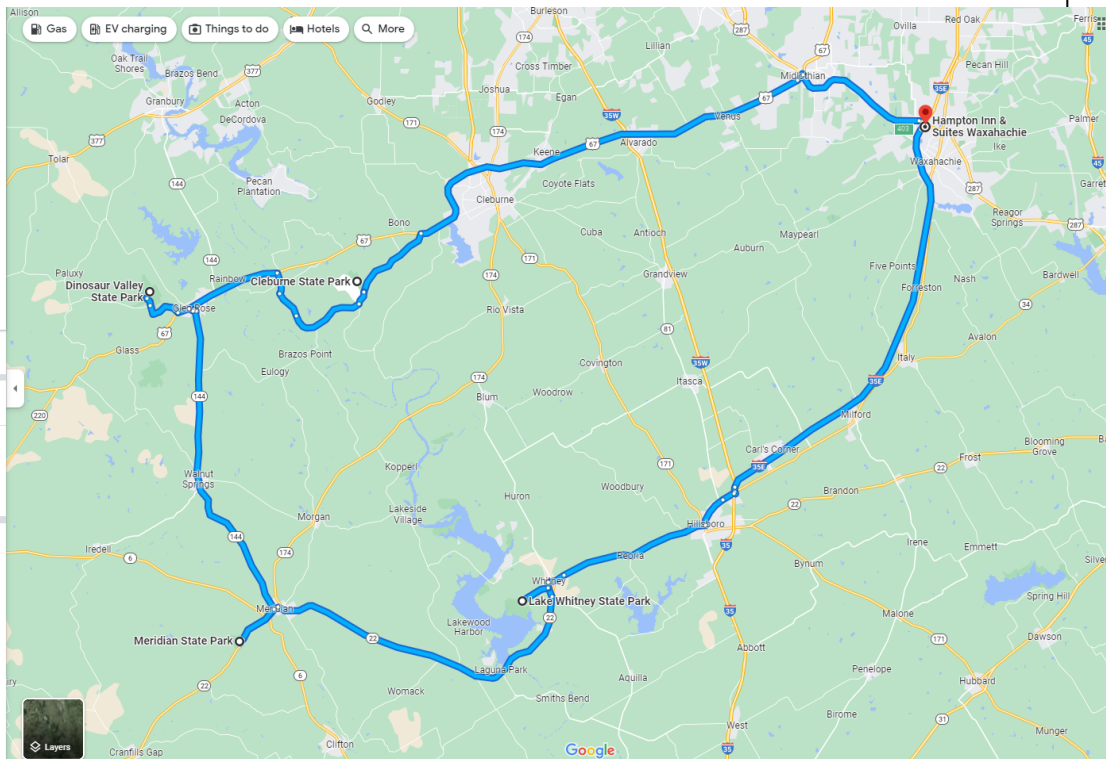
Options

Send directions to your phone

via US-67 S 3 hr 32 min
 3 hr 32 min without traffic 186 miles

Explore nearby Hampton Inn & Suites Waxahachie

- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Gas stations
- Parking Lots
- More



Note: Route for POTA Rove to K-2998, K-3004, K-3039 and K-3032 (park names in the map route listing)

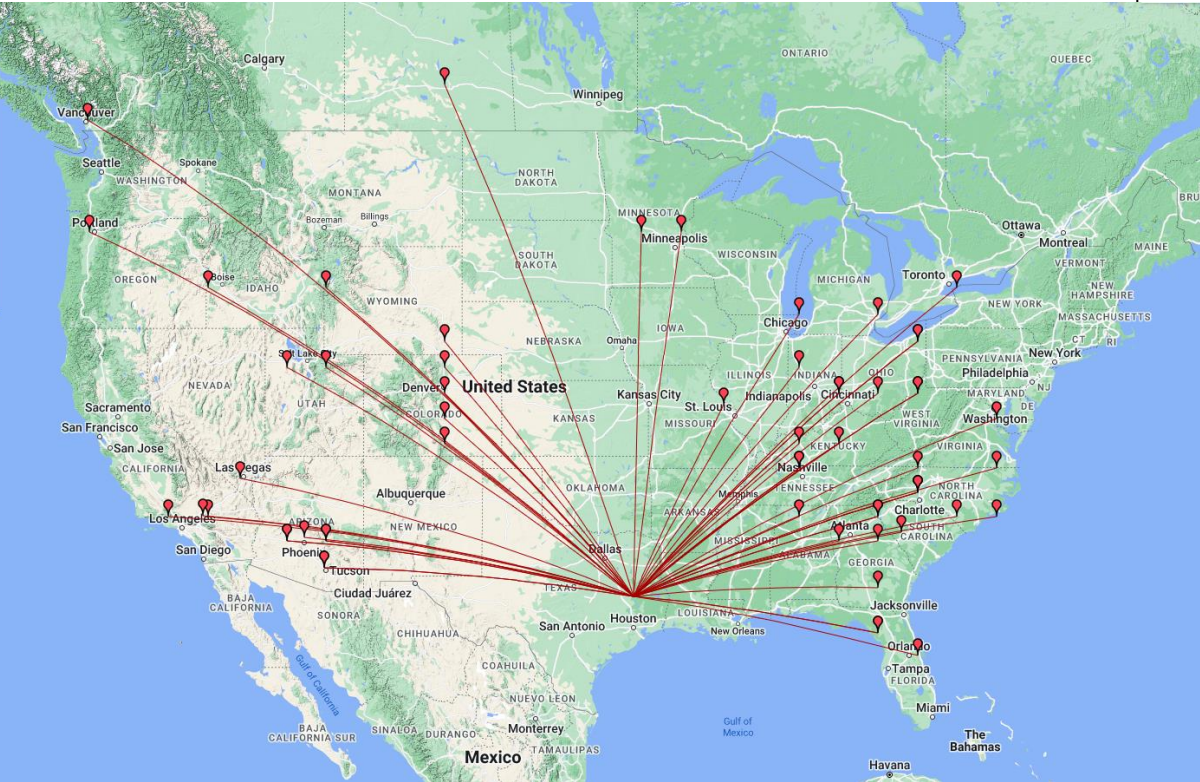
N5JGE EM21HD

log start 19-Aug-2023, 16:33
 log end 19-Aug-2023, 21:50
 operating period 5 hours 17 min
 operating time 3 hours 4 min
 off time 2 hours 13 min
 QSOs 59
 Digi 59

Band	QSO	CW	Phone	Digi
20m	59	0	0	59

Gridsquares 46
 Gridfields 9
 Countries 2

ODX (km)	Call	Loc
3070	VA7GEM	CH9SL1



Note: QSOs made on POTA Rove to K-2998, K-3004, K-3039 and K-3032



Note: Operating position in Mission Tejas (K-3040) and El Camino Real (K-4568)

I assembled my kit and made the second trip to Mission Tejas in April 2023. You can see the operating position in the photo directly above. For this activation I used the 5W (tr)uSDX transceiver. It is the orange box sitting on the PC. The (tr)uSDX does not include a built-in sound card, so a USB sound card and audio cables are needed to operate digital with it. The (tr)uSDX does have USB CAT control to interface with common digital software. The green box is a 6A-hr LiFePO4 battery that would run the (tr)uSDX for ~12 hours at a 50% duty-cycle.

For this activation, I chose the KM4ACK QRP 40M EFHW (End Fed Half Wave) antenna. The KM4ACK antenna is an easy to build kit and very lightweight. It is resonant on 40M, 20M, 15M and 10M, so a tuner is not needed for those bands further saving weight and cabling that can be easily left at home. I carry 25-feet of RG-316 lightweight coax to connect the antenna and rig when field-portable.

Some QRP rigs have final RF amplifier transistors that are sensitive to poor SWR, especially when impedance is less than 50Ω . So, an antenna analyzer or some sort of SWR measuring / indicating device is necessary in the kit. QRP-specific SWR bridges often include an attenuator to limit the portion of rig power supplied to the antenna to reduce the likelihood of "blowing" the finals. (The power not sent to the antenna flows through a 50Ω resistive load.)

An arborist throw weight with line and some guy rope completed the kit. An appropriate tree stood near the downed pine used for operating, so I was able to get the antenna up in a sloper arrangement with the high end at about 30-feet and the low end staked to the ground.

This activation demonstrated that you have to be ready for anything when operating in the field. After getting the antenna up and verifying the SWR, I fired up the PC and setup wsjt-x for the (tr)uSDX. CAT control worked fine, but the rig would not key when a software PTT command was issued. So there I was like a bump on a log wondering what the heck am I going do now. Well, I watched the wsjt-x timing carefully and noted that transmission started (as expected) every 15 seconds and ended after 12 seconds. (The additional 3 seconds are used by the software for decoding the received signals.) So, I manually keyed the rig when wsjt-x initiated the tone and released the PTT button after 12 seconds. It worked flawlessly. I made 20 contacts in 57 minutes, completed my hike in two-fer activation and had a very satisfying day!