

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

## 2014 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: John Cechin - W5FWR

VP: John Chapman - KC5MIB

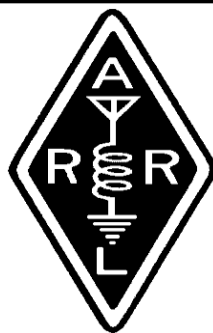
Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

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.



## NOVEMBER MINUTES

The November meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on November 5th. **President John W5FWR**, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Eight members and four guests were present. Each person present introduced them self. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The Treasurer's report was not available.

## Old Business:

**John W5FWR** called for the report of the Nominating Committee. The committee reported that there were no candidates for Vice President, and recommended the office not be filled. They further recommended the current President (W5FWR) and Secretary/Treasurer (AE5P) be re-elected to their respective offices. Motion made to accept the Nominating Committee's report and cast a unanimous ballot to elect the officers as recommended. Motion approved.

## New Business:

**Army AE5P** discussed that with no Vice President for next year, there will not be a monthly Vice President's column in

the club newsletter. In its place, it is asked that each club member provide a short article on any ham radio topic of their choice at least **once per year**. The article can be in any form desired, so long as it is legible. We have a wide diversity of interests in the club, and this is an opportunity to bring some of those special interests into print. Please send to the newsletter editor [ae5p@arrl.net](mailto:ae5p@arrl.net).

The annual **December Christmas Party / meeting** will be held on the regular meeting night of the first Wednesday of the month, December 3. Doors will open at **5:30 p.m.** and the meeting will begin at **6:00**. Bring your favorite food with enough to share. The club will provide drinks, paper goods and utensils. We will also have our annual White Elephant Auction. More details can be found later in this newsletter.

The **Shuttle Columbia Special Event Station** will be held the weekend of February 7, 2015 using the

callsign of K5C. More details to follow.

Contest report made for the CQWWDX SSB and Sweepstakes CW contests.

Meeting closed at 7:30 p.m.

#### **Show and Tell:**

**Army AE5P** showed the Byonics Microtracker TNC / 2M transmitter and micro-GPS that will be used to track via APRS the Timpson ISD balloon on their next launch.

**Jim WA5GVQ** showed his SPOT transmitter that uses LEO satellites to relay messages from anywhere in the world to a website. Some balloon programs have used these for backup tracking in addition to APRS

#### **Program:**

**Army AE5P** presented a program on balloon tracking software developed and used by a group in Colorado. In addition to being able to track the balloon via APRS, the software also permits a balloon flight path and

landing prediction to be calculated using high altitude wind data from the National Weather Service.

## **MY 2 CENTS FOX WILLY ROGER**

#### **DECEMBER:**

That's right, it's December, Xmas cheer, gifts, friends and family, BAH HUMBUG. November was bad enough but putting Xmas right next to it is too much for me. I am not even getting my Santa's outfit out of storage this year, so there. This NL is going to be a short one, the wordtree is begging for a rest, or else.

I will not preside at the December meeting this year so a volunteer will be required to chair, now is your chance to feel the power of the chair, have fun, eat well, and enjoy the white elephant event, and don't forget to come in your favorite costumes,

the categories are, snow man, reindeer, Santa, Ms. Santa, gift, and my favored, the xmas tree or letter to Santa. I heard that AE5P will be giving awards to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for best of the best. Also don't forget to write that letter to Santa asking for all kinds of stuff that you cannot possibly live without, and if you have an overflow, send them to me, see you in January.

Don't forget to turn in your papers to AE5P for the newsletter; this month is "how I spent my summer vacation". Next month will be "my favorite radio". Remember Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> comes on a Saturday this month, so be careful out there.

**WOW** AE5P stepped up once more and gave a great program, I don't know about you but I am looking forward to the launch and seeing how well the tracker performs, maybe this is the next company Army could start?

**PHASE II.V.V:....**

When the weather turns more like winter, I close the doors and windows to keep in the heat. This presented me with extra chores. With the outside closed off to sunshine the cats now have to think up things to occupy their curiosity. The other day TB was teaching herself to open cabinet doors and investigate the insides, so I now have all manner of items blocking her opportunity's, I find these items out of position, I guess I will have to find bigger and heavier items to do the job. Never the less one day I had gotten something out of one of my over the counter cabinets and was busy doing whatever, I thought I had closed the cabinet door, thinking is not one of my strong suites, when I heard something in back of me. I turned around to see a black tail hanging out of the cabinet with the door almost closed. The fight that came next was one for the record, I was told in no uncertain terms that it was her right to inspect the inside of the cabinets and I was keeping her

from her duties as she saw it, and that was that. Did you ever have and loose an argument with a cat?

In the past, from time to time my outside cat(s) has presented me with an offering. This hasn't happened for the last month, I guess the birds and rodents are hiding or getting smarter, go figure. As reported last month, CU had gotten out a loose screen, but now has settled back into in house life and all its rewards and chorus.

I was talking to HM one day and made some growling sounds, before I knew it HM was backing around the corner and running to a hiding place, it took hours to get him back.

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

The century plant is still standing but I don't know how, I am waiting for it to fall onto the power lines

and produce some fireworks.

If anybody wants an offspring let me know.

Be sure and hug a cactus today, they need love too.

### WHY IS IT?

Why is it that we have upper case and lower case letters, while the number system does not?

HMMMM

### GREAT INVENTIONS OF ALL TIME:

Round door knobs, just think of it, where else are you going to hang your dirty clothes?

How else will the XYL find and wash them?

The word tree is finished for this trip and maybe for a long time to come, it thanks you all for enjoying its words.

Remember: keep your powder dry and your head below the horizon.

Happy Trails

73 Enjoy

What do you think, let me know?

73,  
John Cechin W5FWR  
[Carrots4ever2u@suddenlink.net](mailto:Carrots4ever2u@suddenlink.net)

## VEEPS CORNER

As announced in last month's newsletter, **John KC5MIB** has left Nacogdoches and moved to Harlingen, Texas with a new job.

John has been a very important part of NARC, and will be greatly missed. John is a past President and Vice President of NARC, and a mainstay in the PR department. John was always quick to volunteer when a job needed to be done, and wrote many entertaining and informative columns for this newsletter.

**Thank you John for your many contributions to NARC.** We all wish you the very best in your new endeavors.

## VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17th 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](mailto:ae5p@arrl.net)

## CLUB NETS

Remember to join us each week for the 2-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. We are always looking for folks who would like to become

net control operators. If you are interested, please contact any of the existing net controls. We will be pleased to help you in any way we can.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday December 3rd** at **6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. The church is at the corner of Starr and Mound Streets in Nacogdoches. Family and friends are especially welcome so please bring your spouse.

## WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

A regular feature of our December club meeting / Christmas Party is our White Elephant Auction.

So what is a White Elephant Auction you ask?

Please bring a Ham Radio related item to the meeting to be auctioned off. It can be wrapped or not; your choice. It can be something good, or something not so good; your choice. It can be something useful, or something silly; your choice. It helps to have a card attached giving some clue as to what the item might be, and it adds greatly to the fun of the event if the information is written in verse. The idea of the White Elephant Auction is to raise some money for the club and have a lot of fun doing it. Some of the items are specifically intended for the spouses and are usually quite nice.

And remember, the auction is much more fun when many members are bidding for each item.

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE

Mark your calendars for the following events coming up in the next few months:

**ARRL 160M CONTEST CW** - December 5-7

<http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

**ARRL 10M CONTEST - CW, PHONE** - December 13-14

<http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

**ARRL ROOKIE ROUNDUP CW** - December 21

<http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

# Antennas

By

Thomas A. Atchison W5TV

The antenna column is on Holiday break this month. Watch for its return next month in this space.