

Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

2015 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: John Cechin - W5FWR

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.



SEPTEMBER MINUTES

The September meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held as scheduled on September 2nd. **President John W5FWR**, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Eleven members were present. Each person present introduced themselves. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. The Treasurer's report was read.

Old Business:

President John expressed disappointment that no one

had remembered his cat Roly Poly's birthday on September 1st. No presents were received nor did anyone bring a birthday cake. Which is probably just as well as Roly Poly is deathly afraid of lighted candles.

President John also reminded everyone of his birthday coming up September 21.

Army AE5P showed off a very nice certificate just received from ARRL for having worked all 50 states and several territories in 2014 with the W1AW/x program. **Tom W5TV** noted that he had also accomplished WAS in that event. The ARRL has noted this was one of the most popular operating events ever.

New Business:

The Texas QSO Party (TxQP) is scheduled for the weekend of September 26-27. The club station **W5NAC** will be on the air from **AE5P** with **AE5P** and **WA5GVQ** operating. **W5TV**, **KD5FEE** and **W5FWR/M** indicated they were also interested in operating during the event.

Army AE5P reported the Shuttle Columbia Special Event Station will be held February 6-7, 2016. Arrangements have been made to again use the special call **K5C** for the event. It will be published in QST and on the ARRL web site.

Meeting closed at 7:53 p.m.

Show and Tell: **John W5FWR** showed his "Go Kit" for our Special Event.

Program: **Army AE5P** went over details of the upcoming Special Operating Event planned for September 12-13. Several members brought their 2M HT's and practiced the exchange

that will be used during the event.

MY 2 CENTS FOX WILLY ROGER

OCTOBER 2015:

October is with us, the weather has changed for the cooler and the warmers are not as intense. The summer was a cool one and you all know what that means, gather you up your fire wood, or in my case, fire bark. Last June/July I helped my buddy cut and split two big Oak trees, so that's how I got the bark. My TWT has a sign in front of it, closed till spring, so words were hard to find, but I figure the shorter the better, you know how long the attention span of a ham is.

How many of the club ventured forth to the big city to return with some Blue Bell ice cream and didn't invite the others over for a taste?

Remember, October meeting night is custom night, come as your favorite animal, awards

given to best of show and best of bread.

The "H&W,TTTMO, or HWtriple T MO" had another big check in. The topic covered was what was the best height for your antenna? Many answers, about all I could get out of the talk was "as tall as my ladder would go", and that's what is called hammenengineering.

TQP, who all played and how many counties were checked up, I for one got 454 TX counties to my record, next year I will log them, maybe.

The program:

The program is connecting the payload to the balloon.

It has been reported to me that the 84 repeater is still sick; maybe we should just shoot it and put it out of AE5P's misery? That's the next quiz, is it the radio, or the antenna, or is it the coax, maybe its RF from the other equipment, for the answer and other questions on life, contact AE5P. Remember, when

you send in your answers, two great minds are working on the solution, but don't let that stop you, great minds often overlook the smallest of things. Send in your answers to "box br549, great minds, USA, 00000.

More spaces make for a longer column, "Jack Taldi".

PHASE II.V.V:....

As reported in the last NL, **GRAY BABY** has gone walk-a-bout. Having said that, Visitor has a new litter of kittens, four that I can see, three striped and one black, I saw them when they were checking out my back yard, so now that's eight outside and two inside.

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

WHY IS IT?

Remember the kids rhyme "it's raining, its pouring, the old man is snoring" now tell me, have you ever

heard the rain snore. "Raining cats and dogs", or "a toad strangler" gives me a break, what was that all about? I got one for you, where did the term come from "copper or dirty copper" as used in reference to police?

And why is called a "tire jack", it doesn't jack the tire, and what if the tire's name is Jane?

I keep asking these questions and don't get any answers, just remember, you might be the next president and you will have to show the way and ask these questions.

HMMMM

GREAT INVENTIONS OF ALL TIME:

The automobile key, gone are the days of remembering which way the key goes into the lock. I can remember happy days standing in the rain fumbling with the auto key because I started with the key upside-down, tell me those weren't the good old days!

The rain at my house and yard, or should I say drizzle wasn't enough to keep **TWT** from going to sleep for the cooler weather, so here is the information you all have been waiting for.

It's still Army's, John's, Dr Tom's, and others turn to fill in all the blank spaces.

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

Happy Trails

73 Enjoy, what do you think, let me know?

John Cechin W5FWR

Carrots4ever2u@suddenlink.net

NOTES FROM OUR EC

I'm not sure when Army will publish the club newsletter so I'll try to cover my bases as best as I can. If you are reading this before 3 October, remember we have the Piney Woods Purgatory coming up. I'm sure

Megan KB5MEG is still looking for assistance. It's not easy putting something like this on. Drop her a line if you can help.

If you are reading this after 3 October, for those that came out, thanks for helping and I hope you had a good time. I know the times I've assisted I had a great time at the rest stops.

We still have 2 months left in the 2015 hurricane season, it ends 30 November. It seems to have been a quiet season with 9 named storms, 2 hurricanes, 1 of which was classified as major (a Cat 3+). The outlook to end of the season seems to indicate it will remain a quiet season.

That being said, we still have the occasional thunderstorm popping up. Just because it's been quiet and we could sure use the rain, it doesn't mean we should slack off. We still need to keep an eye on the weather especially if it decides to

do more than give us a nice gentle shower.

Thanks to all the net control operators and those hams that check in to our twice weekly nets. We meet at 8:00 pm Mondays and Thursdays on one of the local repeaters. We are looking for a replacement net control for the first Thursday. It's not hard and we can get you the script.

73 de John Chapman
KC5MIB
jlchapman2@juno.com

VOA Radiogram

5745 kHz Saturday 0930-1000 UTC
17870 kHz Saturday 1600-1630 UTC
5745 kHz Sunday 0230-0300 UTC
15670 kHz Sunday 1930-2000 UTC

VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for Wednesday, October 21 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

CLUB NETS

Remember to join us each week for the 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.

The actual operating frequency for each net is at the discretion of the net control operator. The Monday night nets have been meeting recently on the club 444.050 UHF repeater or the 147.32 VHF repeater. Stay alert

to other possibilities such as a simplex frequency or even HF.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **Wednesday October 7th** at **7:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Construction is completed and we are now able to return to our normal meeting location. Come join us.

SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OPERATING EVENT

The NARC Special Operating Event was great fun and a very good learning experience for everyone involved. Participants included **Army AE5P, Tom W5TV, Bill WK5F, Ralph WD5RAH, Jim WA5GVQ, Robert KC4LUY, Dale WD5HFD and Becky KE5EXV.**

As all good operating events have to include food, we started with lunch at Ta Molly's Mexican Kitchen in Texarkana. This worked real well as it was located in the same location that we planned to start the event in.

We immediately discovered just how long it really takes for 8 operators to make contact with 7 other operators on each of 4 bands 4 separate times. The answer: A long time!

From Texarkana we travelled down to Shreveport on the new I-49 highway and made our next stop at the Flying J in Greenwood. Much quicker here as we only had one round of contacts to make. Ralph discovered he had lost 12VDC power to his 706 due to a blown fuse that was cleverly hidden somewhere in the vehicle, so he no longer had 6 meters, but a ham is resourceful, and Ralph was able to continue on the other 3 bands with a HT.

From Greenwood we moved to a spot on Hwy 59 just north of Teneha. This was pretty much a repeat of the Texarkana experience and it turned dark on us before we could finish. Towards the end of our time there, a Panola County Deputy Sheriff pulled in behind AE5P and wanted to know what we were doing and did we need any assistance. He really didn't seem to understand why we were doing what we were doing, but Army thanked him for stopping to check on us.

Due to other commitments, 3 operators were not able to continue the event on Sunday. As we headed south towards Jasper Sunday morning, Army managed to drive a large screw into his left rear tire, requiring a stop for a tire change. Sure was nice having so many people along to assist with the chore. In trying to use a small floor jack to lift the rear axle of the truck, Army managed to crack a rib. Never a dull moment.

Our first stop in Jasper was the Lowe's Store for a potty break. We met several other hams in the parking lot who noticed the weird antennas most of us were sporting on our vehicles. Attempts to contact them on our way out of town were not successful unfortunately.

Final stop was in the little town of Bronson, where some of the residents seemed convinced we were totally nuts. They were probably correct.

When we finished up making all our radio contacts, we returned to Pineland hoping to find something to eat. The only thing we could find was the local Dairy Queen which wasn't half bad.

It really was a fun event and gave everyone an opportunity to get to know the others better, to know their radios better, and to be better operators. We plan to do more of this in the future.

73 de Army AE5P
ae5p@suddenlink.net

UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE

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

CQ WW DX SSB
 0000Z, Oct 24 to 2400Z,
 Oct 25
<http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW
 2100Z, Nov 7 to 0300Z,
 Nov 9
<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB
 2100Z, Nov 21 to 0300Z,
 Nov 23
<http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW
 0000Z, Nov 28 to 2400Z,
 Nov 29
<http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

ARRL 160M Contest, CW
 2200Z, Dec 4 to 1600Z,
 Dec 6, 2015

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

ARRL 10M Contest, CW/SSB
 0000Z, Dec 12 to 2400Z,
 Dec 13

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

ARRL Rookie Roundup CW
 1800Z-2359Z, Dec 20,
 2015

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

NARC SPECIAL OPERATING EVENT
 1900Z Jan 30 - 0359Z
 Feb 1

SHUTTLE COLUMBIA SPECIAL EVENT STATION K5C
 Feb 6 - 7, 2016

ARRL FIELD DAY
 June 25 - 26, 2016

FEEDING A 2-METER J-POLE

By

Thomas Atchison, W5TV

As I was trying to find a good topic for an article for the NARC Newsletter I ran across some discussions regarding a different way of feeding a 2-meter J-pole antenna.

As you may recall, the typical 2-meter J-pole consists of a long element (usually $\frac{3}{4}$ wavelength long) and a shorter parallel element (usually $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength long), see Fig. 1.

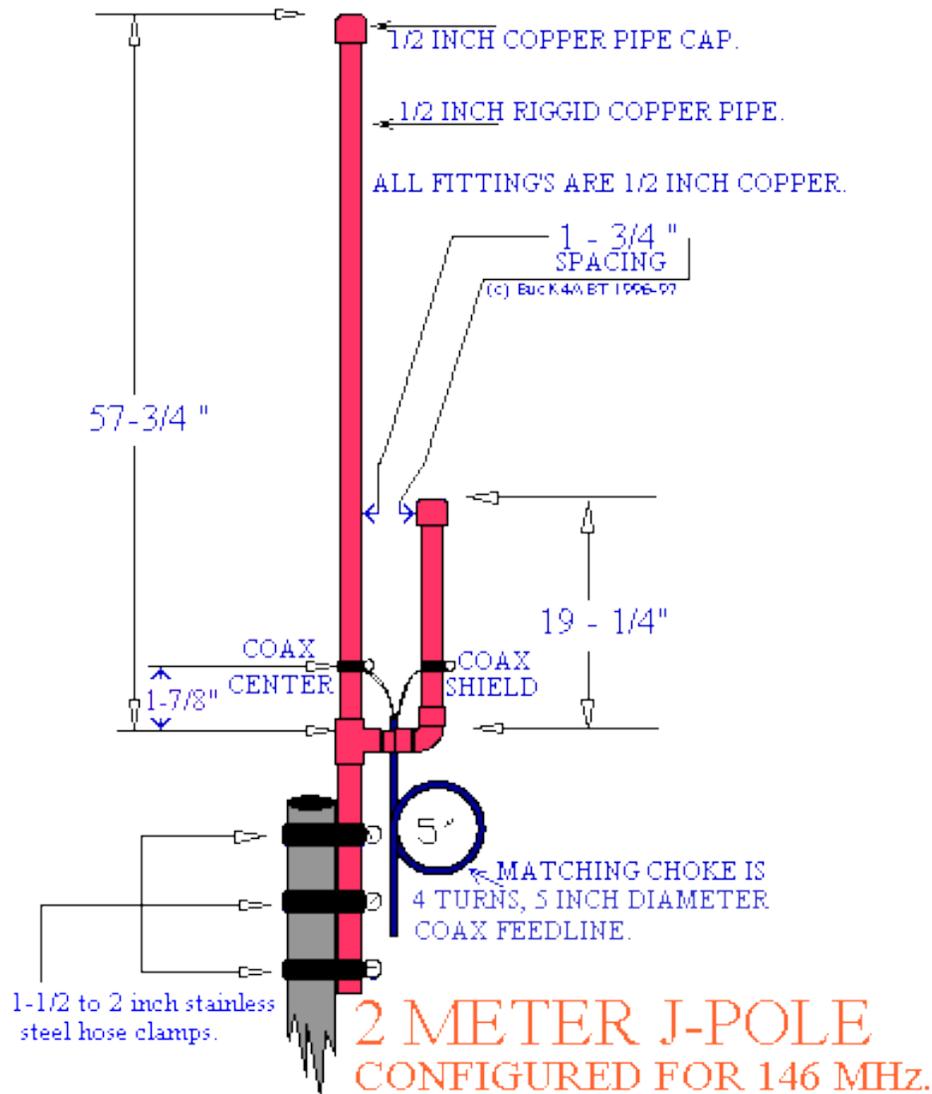


Fig. 1

The dimensions shown in Fig. 1 represent one way of constructing a 2-meter J-pole. As shown in Fig. 1, the coax feedline has one side connected to the short stub and the other side connected to the longer element. The point of attachment is determined by finding the point of lowest SWR for your frequency of interest. Some solder the center conductor to a clamp and the shield to another clamp. These clamps are connected to the two elements and can be moved up and down to find the point of lowest SWR. It really doesn't matter which element the center conductor is on.

Another method of connecting the feedline to the J-pole is to use capacitive coupling. I have seen several articles discussing this. Most of these suggest mounting an SO-239 to the base of the J-pole as the point of attachment of the coaxial feedline. This SO-239 can be attached to the middle of a flat piece of conducting material which will serve as the base of the j-pole. The short and long elements can be attached on each end of the flat base. The coax shield will then be connected to the base. Take a piece of #12 insulated wire and wrap it 4 to 6 times around the long element approximately 4 inches up from the base. This coil should be tightly wrapped and you may need to use some tape to hold it in place. The lower end of this coil is then connected to the SO-239 center conductor. Note that there is no physical coupling of the center conductor to the antenna. The coil creates a capacitive coupling that will accomplish our purpose. You may slide the coil up or down slightly to vary the SWR. You also may need to shorten the $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength stub some if you cannot achieve a low SWR with the coil position.

This technique of feeding a J-pole has been around for many years, however, I had not seen it until recently. I hope this may cause some of you to experiment with other antennas and capacitive coupling. HAPPY HAMMING!