

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

## 2018 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: RM Blake - K5AGE

Vice Pres: Jack York - KG5POU

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 and having fun.



## JULY MINUTES

The July meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held July 3<sup>rd</sup> to avoid the conflict with July 4<sup>th</sup>. We quickly found out our usual meeting place at Christ Episcopal Church is used Tuesday evenings by Weight Watchers. To complicate matters, the July meeting was slated to be our annual Ice Cream Social, which made things even more complicated with the ladies of Weight Watchers. Robert Judy came to our rescue by suggesting we move to the new Parish Hall in the main church building. **President**

**RM K5AGE** opened the meeting at 6:10 p.m. in the new Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church. Nine 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 read.

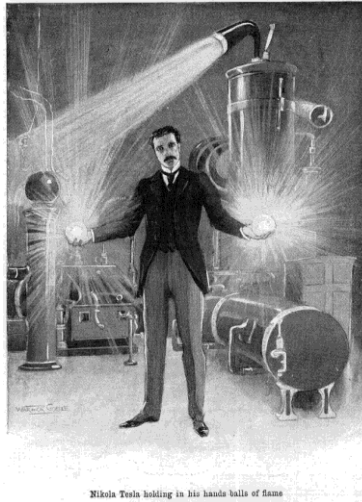
**Army AE5P** gave a report on Field Day.

The CQ VHF contest comes up July 21 - 22. After discussion, several conflicts with other events forced participation in the VHF contest to be cancelled this year.

Meeting closed at 6:28 p.m. and the Ice Cream Social began with an amazing assortment of ice cream and other goodies, all of which we were

assured were low calorie.  
**Robert KD5FEE**  
 demonstrated some of the high tech capabilities of the room, showing the group DX Maps and DX Summit on the room's built-in video projector. Very nice indeed.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Nikola Tesla holding in his hands balls of flame

As some of you might have read, data suggesting an underground body of water has been recorded on mars. This new data is quite different from the intermittent liquid flowing water on the surface of mars previously suggested from scientists. This presumed stationary water, 1.5km below, is exciting because it is believed to have a better chance of harboring life vs intermittent flowing water. Related to radio you might ask? This exciting new data was brought forth from a radar instrument on board the *ESA Express Orbiter*. The orbiter has plotted the

surface and subsurface of the planet via radar. Quite an interesting use of radio. I do think Nikola Tesla would be quite astonished at the progress of his invention.

73 de RM Blake K5AGE  
[k5age@fastmail.com](mailto:k5age@fastmail.com)

## From the VP Chair

### My First Individual HF Contest

After getting my antennas up and running, I was encouraged again to try a contest. The contest I endeavored was the 13 Colonies. It is different than some of the other contests because there is a goal to make contact with particular stations which makes the contest a hunt and find variety instead of who makes the most contacts like Field Day. Field Day was good and it was a good training session for the ear to

pick out people calling "CQ Field Day" and RST through the noise and crowd.

Thirteen Colonies seemed "more fun" because it became a partner participation with my wife, Veronica. She and I worked as a team and she helped me using the spotter program DX Summit to locate stations which I needed to complete the Sweep. There was a goal of completion in mind by contacting the Thirteen so, when one reaches the goal the result is a win for oneself.

Using a spotting program made the contest easier and more productive and thus without it obtaining the Clean Sweep would have been more taxing and would not have provided an opportunity for Veronica to participate.

She learned contesting with me and I believe she enjoyed it as well. I hope

this encourages her to participate further in the sport and get licensed on some level at some point. Now, I will let her give you her perspective.

### Veronica's Story

Time: July 4, 2018 (Day after Ham Meeting)

Setting: Bedroom with Man at Radio with scrawling on piece of paper, print outs and pen. Woman woefully wandering house after eating too many sweets and ice cream at Ham Meeting day before.

I heard Jack doing his CQ calling and was initially disconcerted because I needed rest after an awful bout of acid reflux. However, after a few days of rest I was able to pay attention to what Jack was doing. I started rooting for him to try and get the so called "Clean Sweep."

After being able to become part of the

Human Race again, I ventured on to FaceBook to see how the rest of the world was doing. My loving husband would come and bump me off a few times to get the channels necessary for his next conquest on the colonies. I saw what he was doing and he gave me a few quick overviews about the how to's. Of course, initially I didn't quite pay as much attention as I should have because I wanted to wish my FB friends Happy Birthday and so on. However, after learning he only needed a few more and time was running out I changed my outlook to focus on a "Clean Sweep" with him.

Mind you, our computer is upstairs and the radio is downstairs. I started studying the spotter program and would call out the channels he needed. I even learned one could post a comment on the net program to indicate a needed station. At the end of the week and the end contest with only a few contacts to go,

I started getting ecstatic and began jumping up when a new number within his range became available to contact. I really enjoyed the experience and teamwork I had with him. I definitely want to attempt to get a license but the math makes my eyes glaze over (hence, the reason I am an English teacher... actually a Theater teacher but there weren't any positions available).

Jack and I enjoy doing many things together which is what makes our relationship special and I look forward to the radio conquests in the future. First, I need to get my license as I said but maybe he should get a radio better than a Yaesu. (Just Kidding - but what is this FLEX I have been hearing about?)

73 de Jack York

KG5POU

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## NOTES FROM OUR EC

Hot, hotter, hottest and Oh My Goodness! What a scorcher August, oops I mean July has been. Triple digit days, heat indices 110F plus (121 in Austin Monday the 23rd.) All of this heat reminds me of a science fiction movie THE CHRONICLES OF RIDDICK, specifically the prison planet of Crematoria, yep get out in the sun and you burn up quite literally. Of course it's not that bad but I'm sure you get the idea.

All this heat can easily lead to disastrous events, grass fires, forest fires, heat exhaustion or heat stroke in humans and in our pets. How well do you stay hydrated and keep your outdoor pets hydrated and cool. The symptoms and support are topics for another occasion, just remember, drink lots of water and if you get too hot, get inside and cool off.

There are a number of fires across the state.

Texas A&M has a link for active fires in the state. Our club was asked way back in September 2011 to provide comms support during the Angelina River Bottom Fire. The fire destroyed close to 10,000 acres between Nacogdoches and Cherokee counties, with \$890K lost in timber resources and over \$115K in direct cost to Nacogdoches County.

Some of our hams were able to provide support. All of that means, regardless of season, we can be called upon for support. And Hurricane Season, the 2018 edition, is still upon us

We still have a few more days left in July. I'm writing this on the 24th. I wanted to grab a few statistics and well you know down the rabbit hole I went again. I wanted to grab some numbers. Specifically, how many storms and or hurricanes July has.

The Hurricane Research Division of the Atlantic

Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (NOAA) had some neat stuff. Now if my math is correct, historically we have about 7 tropical storms, 2 hurricanes and not quite 1 making land fall, you understand how statistics can be. I'll need to check it with Dr Tom. July did give us the 2 hurricanes this year Beryl (cat 1) and Chris (cat 2). The 48 hour outlook from the National Hurricane Center indicates no tropical cyclone activity expected within the next 48 hours.

One other thing I wanted to look at was the lovely (cough, cough) Saharan Dust that has been ruining our blue skies and making eyes itch. The dust is following the same trade wind path that hurricane low pressure systems follow coming out of Africa. So gee, I guess we can suffer from the dust or the storm cycle. Not much of a choice.

Don't forget to check into our Monday and Thursday nets, we meet at 8:00 pm

CT, 2000 hrs Local, or 0100 UTC, and for you military guys Mickey's big hand is straight up and his little hand is pointing at the 8.

Closing thoughts, stay cool, stay hydrated, hide in the radio room and make a few contacts.

Websites visited

<http://texashelp.tamu.edu/browse/by-type/naturally-occurring/fires-wildfires/www.nhc.noaa.gov>

[www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/tcfaq/tcfacE.html](http://www.aoml.noaa.gov/hrd/tcfaq/tcfacE.html)

<https://weather.com/news/news/2018-07-01-saharan-dust-texas-houston-saturday>

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

## VE TESTING

Our next VE testing is scheduled for **Wednesday August 15 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Lunch Room of Christ Episcopal School (Our usual meeting place).

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.

Please keep in mind that the Technician license question pool has changed effective July 1.

73 de AE5P

email: [ae5p@arrl.net](mailto:ae5p@arrl.net)

## NEW HAMS

At our VE testing session on July 18, Steve Bartlett WB5IDY, upgraded from Tech to General. Steve was originally licensed 40+ years ago as a teenager in Houston, but let his license lapse. After taking

and passing his Tech license again earlier this year, Steve got his original call sign back and now has his General class license again. Steve commented that ham radio has changed a lot in the past 40 years, and he feels like he is starting all over again.

Congratulations to Steve on getting his General class license again. We look forward to hearing him on HF.

## TWO METER CLUB NETS

Remember to join us each week for the two 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.

## NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be **Wednesday August 1st at 7:00 p.m.** in the Lunch Room of Christ Episcopal School (Our usual meeting place). We will be judging the entries of our Arduino contest, so be sure to bring your Arduino projects and be prepared to act as judges.

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

Items in RED are NARC Club Events

North American QSO Party, CW  
Aug 4

SHREVEPORT  
HAMFEST  
Aug 10-11

North American QSO Party, SSB  
Aug 18

ARRL September VHF  
Sept 8-9

Texas QSO Party  
Sept 29-30

CQ WW DX - SSB  
Oct 27-28

ARRL Sweepstakes -  
CW  
Nov 3-4

ARRL Sweepstakes -  
SSB  
Nov 17-19

CQ WW DX - CW  
Nov 24-25

ARRL 10 Meter  
Dec 8-9

## Technical Topics

by

Thomas Atchison, W5TV

Dr. Tom is taking a well-earned vacation from his monthly column this month. Look for it to return in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, ask him about his new radio.



## MY TWO CENTS

FOX WILLY ROGER

AUGUST 2018

I HAVE THREE DAYS FOR YOU TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDARS, THE FIRST, IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, MY FATHER'S BIRTHDAY, SECOND IS MY BIRTHDAY, ANOTHER YEAR OLDER BUT MUCH BETTER LOOKING, AND THIRD IS THE TXQSO. THE BETTER YOU ARE INFORMED, WILL MAKE YOU BE A BETTER PERSON.

I heard that our latest YL ham has moved to a new area. The club will miss her and the positive attitude she has. Good luck Collins on your travels.

I understand that Jack has a load to say this month again. Like last time, the subject is still up in the air, read the column and you will be confused but perhaps a bit wiser. Jack touches home on many subjects, read and enjoy.

The TWT has been refusing to open all its eyes, a sign hanging on a limb informed me, and I quote, "it's too damn hot". I wrote much more but the heat melted the words off the pages.

The freezer is a quarter full and some flavors are having problems freezing, I touched one of the problem cool pops, as soon as I touched it the pop started to turn to ice, could it be that I could be the start of the next ice age?

Well it's still yard work time, the only difference is that the grass is brown and cracks when I walk on it. About a week ago a neighbor cut my front yard, more or less, at least he tried. The back yard is still in pain with growth problems, the complaint from the over growth was the yard was too small, if you know of any free volunteers that can clear trees and cut them to fireplace size is welcome.

### QUESTION:

Why tooth brush, not teeth brush?

Why is it called a silencer when you can still hear the report?

Why is it called a "car wash" the car doesn't do any washing?

**REMEMBER:**

Remember signaling the turning of the car with just your arm?

Remember streets before paving?

Remember fishing before license?

**COMMENTARY:****What the hell is going on?**

This month thoughts to chew on, so chew well.

As you may or may not know, our sun is burning out, so why isn't the government having a plan in place to transplant people to another solar system?

Is it because it's easier to dispose of the people, plants, and animals of this Earth than to save the millions that they were elected to protect?

Are the people of Earth made to explore and search the unknown, to see what's over the next hill, or what's on the sea's bottom, what difference is that to venturing into outer space? It is said that our galaxy, the Milky Way, is 100K light years across. If that's not enough for you, it is also said that there are Billions of galaxies and Trillions of stars with a planetary systems to choose from, what the hell you waiting for?

Sure there are a few obstacles to overcome, but the problems can't be solved when the earth's past time is killing one another. With all the money spent on wars, there could have been colonies on other worlds.

Chew on that for a spell and keep an eye on the Sun.

**GUEST COLUMNIST****JACK TALDI****THE CRAZY CAT GUY:**

"The pride has now one regular member, **Tuff Guy**, he comes by almost every day and then finds some shade, and it's a tuff life.

**TB** has perfected the new game of hers, as I reported in the last NL, she calls it charging the open door, now it's like two ships passing one another, I go outside to do a

chore and when finished go back in the house. **TB** takes this opportunity to take her turn outside, keeping within her comfort zone. Sometimes the time is spent sitting and watching whatever cats watch, or sits in the bushes and watches. A new twist has been added, now when she wants back into the house **TB** just opens the storm door and enters, the only thing is, she won't close the front door, am I asking too much?

**RP** is taking advantage of her outside comfort zone, but hers is much closer to the front door. One day she went out and disappeared from view, I went out and called and called her but not a sound was heard. The only thing I could think of was that **RP** had gone on walk-about, one last call but still nothing, a quick look around found her in the bushes about a foot from where I was standing, watching me. **RP** hasn't learned the door opening trick so it's my job is let her in when finished, I got to work on that.

**Heckle and Jackal** are still visiting; at least I think it's the same ones. Along with them I have Doves that use that antenna, not at the same time. I don't know what it is that attracts them; it must be a great antenna.

The black wasp was taking a bath and slipped and hit its head and drowned, services was the 20<sup>th</sup>, RIP Blackie.

**DOGS HAVE MASTERS  
CATS HAVE SERVANTS**

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

**BE THE KIND OF WOMAN/MAN THAT WHEN YOUR FEET HIT THE GROUND  
EACH MORNING THE DEVIL SAYS, "OH CRAP, THEY'RE UP!"**

**LIVE WELL, LAUGH OFTEN, AND LOVE MUCH!!!**

**KEEP YOUR POWER DRY AND YOUR HEAD BELOW THE HORIZON**

**HAPPY TRAILS**

**John Cechin W5FWR**  
[Carrots4ever2@gmail.com](mailto:Carrots4ever2@gmail.com)

## ARDUINO PROJECT CONTEST

At the May 2018 meeting of NARC, the Arduino Project Contest was announced. The object of the contest is to promote interest, provide an educational opportunity, and give the members the chance to win some money.

Here are the rules:

Entry into the contest is limited to dues paying members of NARC, current in dues as of the May 2, 2018 meeting.

There are two entry categories. One is for members 50 years old and younger. The other is for members over 50 years old.

The object of the contest is to acquire the necessary hardware to build a project of the member's choice based on an Arduino micro-computer, and demonstrate his/her creation at the July 2018 NARC meeting. (**Changed to August NARC meeting**)

The member will also be required to program the Arduino as necessary using the appropriate language, and load the program into the Arduino as required.

The projects will be judged by the members present at the August NARC meeting. First prize in each category (<50, >50) will win \$250 cash. If there are at least 4 entries in a category, a second prize of \$100 will also awarded.

There are many sources of hardware currently available. One such source is this ad from Banggood for just \$21.99 with free shipping:

[https://www.banggood.com/Geekcreit-UNO-R3-Basic-Starter-Learning-Kit-No-Battery-Version-For-Arduino-p-1133595.html?utm\\_design=114&utm\\_source=emarsys&utm\\_medium=Mail\\_promotion180427\\_email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter%E2%80%94emarsys&utm\\_content=talis&sc\\_src=email\\_2977938&sc\\_eh=4c88e32686c583ea1&sc\\_lid=188964&sc\\_lid=115481913&sc\\_uid=6dZ2sLx4uH&cur\\_warehouse=CN](https://www.banggood.com/Geekcreit-UNO-R3-Basic-Starter-Learning-Kit-No-Battery-Version-For-Arduino-p-1133595.html?utm_design=114&utm_source=emarsys&utm_medium=Mail_promotion180427_email&utm_campaign=newsletter%E2%80%94emarsys&utm_content=talis&sc_src=email_2977938&sc_eh=4c88e32686c583ea1&sc_lid=188964&sc_lid=115481913&sc_uid=6dZ2sLx4uH&cur_warehouse=CN)

Members are not limited to using this particular kit, although it does appear to be an excellent starting point at a very reasonable price. Many books are available to show

how to assemble and program an Arduino to perform useful tasks. You have approximately 60 days to make this happen. Put on your thinking cap, order the material needed, and let's see what you can produce.

**Remember, first prize is \$250 cash in each of the two categories.**

Questions? Direct them to AE5P.

Since these rules were originally sent out to all current members right after the May meeting, several things have popped up requiring some changes.

The first Wednesday in July is July 4<sup>th</sup>, which may well require the meeting date to be changed. Also, the July NARC meeting is normally our annual Ice Cream Social, and it probably would not be appropriate as a time to judge Arduino projects. When the rules were first prepared, it was expected that the shipping time to receive the Starter Learning Kit from Banggood would be about a week. It has turned out to take at least 3 weeks.

Given these things, I am changing the project completion date to the first Wednesday in August, when the projects will be judged by the members at our August meeting. Don't wait until mid-July to start this.